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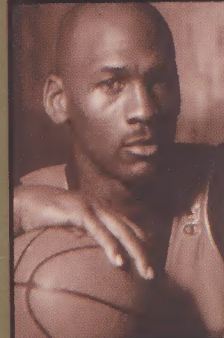
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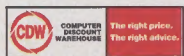
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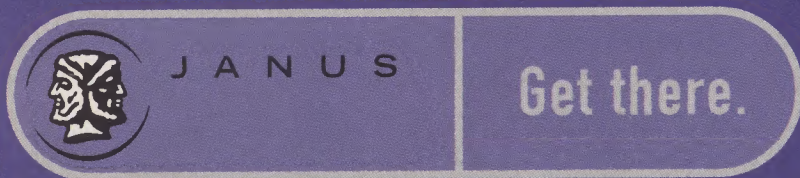


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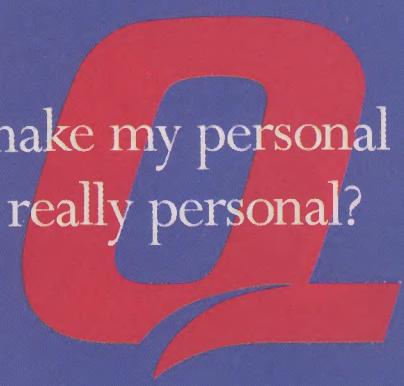
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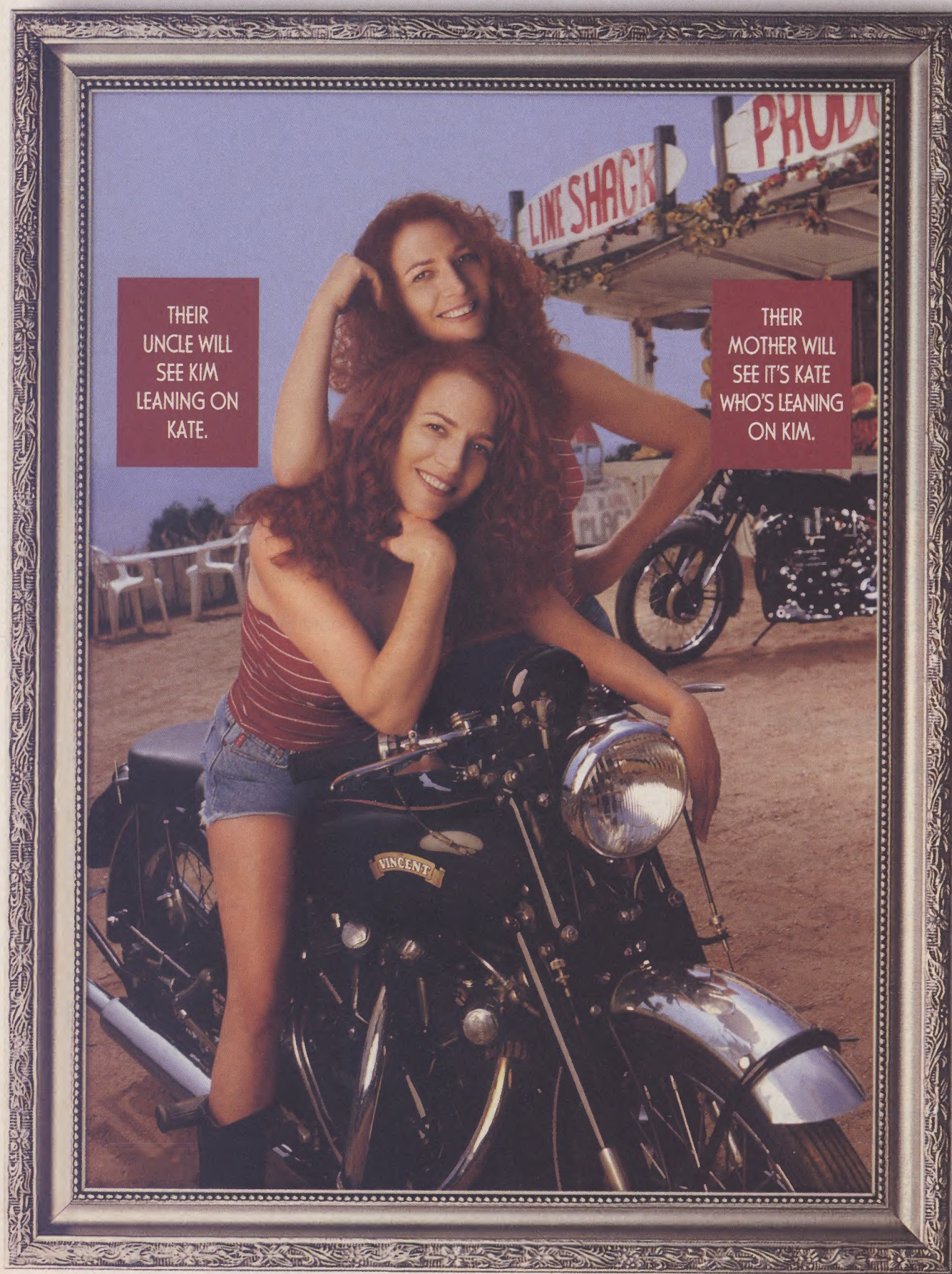
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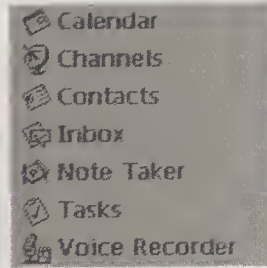
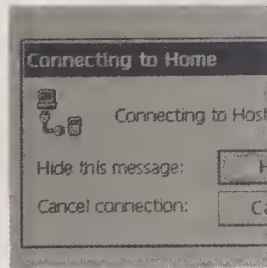
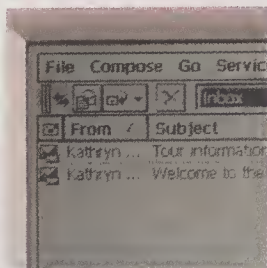
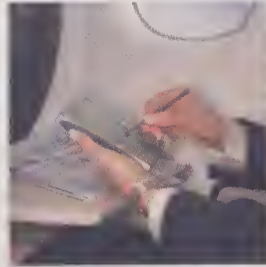
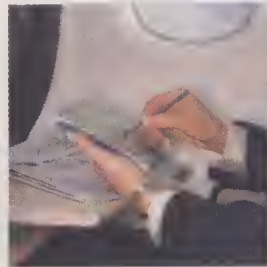
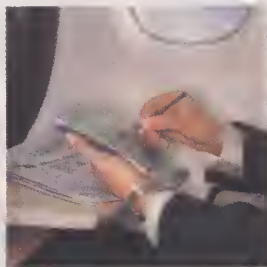
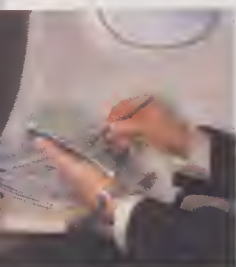
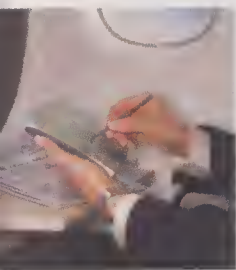
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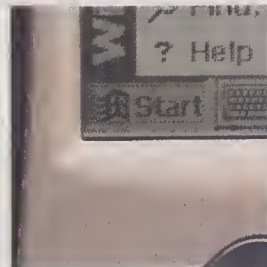
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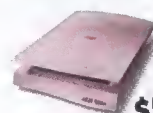
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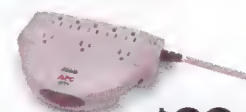
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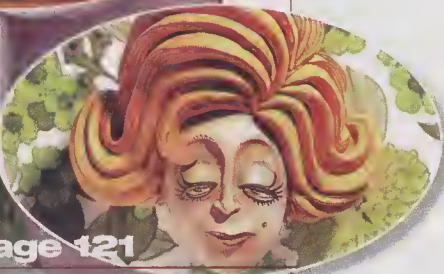
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The Net Year That Was

It's a truism that everything happens faster on Internet time, and that goes for the establishment of traditions as well. When we first conceived of our "Top of the Net" feature three years ago, we were just a few months old, and the idea of devoting much of an issue to summing up how the year's most notable events, services, personalities, and developments affected the average Net user was a stretch. After all, the Internet was hardly a mass medium. It was on its way to *becoming* mainstream, we believed, but much of what we covered in January 1996 had occurred behind the scenes, and was rather technical at that—browser battles, new streaming technologies, and so on. Not the stuff of everyday, what's-this-got-to-do-with-me general interest.

Click forward to January 1999. The past year began with an Internet newsmaker—the Monica Lewinsky affair—a story that, for all its tawdriness, was to enthrall the nation and led to the century's second presidential-impeachment inquiry. Many of the story's major developments were advanced online, culminating in the decision by Congress to release the Starr report directly onto the Internet, where much of the world first read it. As the year drew to a close, it was fitting that during the very same week in which the speaker of the House (a Net-friendly technophile, by the way) announced his resignation, the president of the United States (a virgin on the Internet, if nowhere else) was surfing the Web for the first time, pulling down election results. He apparently liked the experience well enough that a couple of days later he engaged in a White House-to-space shuttle e-mail chat, typos and all, with America's first and oldest man in orbit. It doesn't get any more mainstream than that.

The changes were nearly as dramatic in other arenas, too. What looks to be the most significant antitrust case of our era—Microsoft vs. Justice—arose largely out of that compa-

ny's methods in deploying its Internet strategy. In the automobile industry, car makers and dealers alike hunkered down as more buyers began to kick tires online. In the travel industry, tourists made their reservations online, and travel agents began to wonder if they had a future. In the finance industry, stock investors accelerated what appears to be a massive, inexorable move online. In the computer industry, fortunes were made and lost as the business shifted to the Internet. In entertainment, TV and movie studios spent millions to figure out whether the Net will complement or threaten their domination—joining all the book and music publishers that have been wrestling with the same question.

But it was in the everyday lives of people logging on that the shifts could be seen most vividly. Teens, seniors, educators, small-business owners, farmers—new communities with shared interests sprouted everywhere. Everyone, it seemed, had his or her own printing press, bulletin board, mini-radio station, or primitive TV studio. New ways of communicating online—instant messages, Web clubs, real-time video and audio—gave newcomers and veterans fresh reasons to click on and stay on. (Of course, there were new scams, fraud, and, always, spam—and we've chronicled that, too.)

So, with the Internet having come truly into its own, we offer our less-than-reverent version of the year's highs and lows, the memorable and the maudlin, the greatest and the goofiest, the best and the brashest. Happy New Year, and—to mangle the old Chinese curse—may the coming year be as interesting as the one just past. If you have the stamina for it.

Barry Golson Editor in Chief

Letters to the editor: backchat@zd.com

OUR TEAR-OUT SITE ADDRESS GUIDE IS ON PAGE 25

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A stack of DVD cases is shown, with the top one being 'THE CARLE GUY'. Other visible titles include 'ALMOST FRIENDS', 'GALATICA', 'Rhino! Rhooo!', 'THE 13TH ELEMENT', 'ANACONDA', and 'NINJA'. In the foreground, there is a large image of Harrison Ford's face, with the text 'Harrison Ford' and 'THE 13TH ELEMENT' visible above it. The DVD logo is in the bottom right corner of the foreground image.

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- ☐ Probabilities in the Game of Monopoly www.teleport.com/~tcollins/monopoly.shtml
- ☐ Gallery of Ill-Fitting Pants www.geocities.com/SoHo/Gallery/4905/pants.html
- ☐ Oave's List of Words That Are Fun to Say members.tripod.com/~DeathInPlaid/list.html
- ☐ Decapitate an Angel www.halcyon.com/maelstrm/angel
- ☐ The Page That Will Turn You into a Weeble www.andrew.cmu.edu/~gmh/goldfish/weeble.html
- ☐ Roller-blading on Ritalin www.c3f.com/bladerit.html
- ☐ Vintage Calculators www.dotpoint.com/xnumber/vintage.htm
- ☐ Laundry: A Quantum Mechanical Approach www.swcp.com/~breardon/quantum.html
- ☐ Subliminal Messages in Windows 95? www.tcp.ca/gsb/PC/Win95-subliminals.html
- ☐ About the @ Sign www.student.nada.kth.se/~f96-lla/@.html
- ☐ How to Choose a Quality Telescope for Under \$500.00 www.eecs.uic.edu/~dlen/btel.html
- ☐ Do Sports Bras Prevent Sagging Breasts? www.netasia.net/users/truehealth/Bra.htm
- ☐ The Illustrated Guide to Breaking Your Computer members.aol.com/spoons1000/break
- ☐ 99 Ways to Open a Beer Bottle Without a Bottle Opener www.inch.com/~brett
- ☐ The Sheep Brain Oissection Guide academic.uofs.edu/departments/psych/sheep
- ☐ The Internet's First Online Pregnancy Test www.fosml.com/pregnant
- ☐ A Digital Catalogue of Watermarks and Type Ornaments Used by William Stansby in the Printing of *The Workes of Benjamin Jonson* jefferson.village.virginia.edu/gants
- ☐ The Ordnance Shop Historical Events Calendar www.ordnance.org/historic.htm
- ☐ 18th Century Pennsylvania German Nicknames www.kalglo.com/nickname.htm
- ☐ Middle Finger of Galileo's Right Hand galileo.imss.firenze.it/museo/4/eiv10.html
- ☐ National Legal Video Association www.nlva.com
- ☐ Homicide: Life of the Street: Scopolamine scienceweb.dao.nrc.ca/tv/shorthomicide.html
- ☐ Isleham Carrot Growers Limited ds.dial.pipex.com/icg.ltd
- ☐ Police Association of South Australia www.pasa.asn.au
- ☐ The Visiting Fireman www.execpc.com/~vf
- ☐ Retro Hair Styling www.geocities.com/Wellesley/2457
- ☐ Adoptable Orphaned Kittens and Cats Need Homes (San Jose, CA) www.geocities.com/Heartland/Flats/2707
- ☐ Cryogenic Processing of Bats worthinc.com/cyro.html
- ☐ Sign Language Communication with Elephants www.dolphinsociety.org/4.index.htm

- Interspecies Telepathic Communication
www.CyberArk.com/animal/telepath.htm
- How to Make an Alien www.trudang.com/autopsy/autopsy2.html
- Elk Breeders Home Page www.wapiti.net
- Flight Attendants & Other Snapshots
www.2m.meshnet.or.jp/~takuji-s
- The Bureau of Atomic Tourism
www.oz.net/~chrisp/atomic.html
- Erotica in Esperanto esperanto.agoronet.be
- How to Be Obnoxious in French
yoyo.cc.monash.edu.au/~mongoose/french
- English-Romanian Dictionary of Equivalent Proverbs
info.utas.edu.au/docs/flonta/DP/1,1,95/dictionary.html
- Nazi Connections to the Occult
user.fastinet.net/kalgonis/index/other.htm
- Astrological Jokes: On Tickling
www.aquarianage.org/lore/jokes/tickle.html
- Swami Baxter's Psychic Lottery Number Generator
www.dancentury.com/lottery
- 101 Spells Not Worth Memorizing www.pvv.ntnu.no/~leirbakk/adnd/101_spells.html
- Extremely Specialized www.yil.com/specialized

BLOCK THAT CLICK! (PAGES 122-124)

- Redskins www.redskins.com
- Dolphins Endzone www.dolphinsendzone.com
- The Washington Post
www.washingtonpost.com
- ESPN.com www.espn.com
- NFL.com www.nfl.com
- Q.B. Club www.nfl.com/qbclub
- All Madden www.foxsports.com/football/madden
- Barnesandnoble.com
www.barnesandnoble.com
- Yahoo! Chat chat.yahoo.com
- CBS SportsLine www.sportsline.com
- GameDay Live www.nfl.com
- CNN/SI www.cnn.com
- NFL.com www.nfl.com
- Fox Sports www.foxsports.com
- CNN/SI www.cnn.com
- CBS SportsLine www.sportsline.com
- Fox Sports www.foxsports.com
- MSNBC.com www.msnbc.com
- Madden Cruiser www.foxsports.com/football/madden/cruiser

COLUMNS

CHARLES PAPPAS: SAFETY NET (PAGE 76)

- God Hates Fags www.godhatesfags.com
- Simon Wiesenthal Center www.wiesenthal.com
- Stormfront www.stormfront.org
- Aryan Nations www.nidlink.com/~aryanvic
- National Alliance www.natvan.com
- Southern Poverty Law Center
www.splcenter.org
- Resistance Records www.resistance.com
- CyberWatch Hotline
www.wiesenthal.com/watch/wholine.html
- HateWatch www.hatewatch.org

DEPARTMENTS

CLICK (PAGES 35-50)

- Cypress Hill www.cypressonline.com
- The Vincent van Gogh Information Gallery
www.vangoghgallery.com
- Will Smith www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Studio/4866
- Dan's Poker Dictionary www.universe.digex.net/~kimberg/pokerdict.html
- Northern Star: Hole heavenly.simplenet.com/hole
- Click News
- ParoleWatch www.parolewatch.org
- Ask Jeeves www.askjeeves.com
- Click Home & Office
- Wit Capital www.witcapital.com
- Personal Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement
www.ssa.gov/pebes
- ImproveNet www.improvenet.com
- appoint.net www.appoint.net
- Futurestep www.futurestep.com
- Click Personal
- Problems with Unconfined Ducks
hammock.ifas.ufl.edu/bxt/fairs/16925
- The National Cuff Link Society
www.cufflink.com
- The Gothic Intelligence Test www.obscure.org/wombat/amusements/int-test.html
- Crustaceans of Southern Australia
www.mov.vic.gov.au/crust
- Zahir's Oasis www.geocities.com/Area51/Lair/8962/oasis.html
- The Camille Paglia Home Page
www.teleport.com/~polettij/Paglia
- Real Japan www.geocities.com/Tokyo/Ginza/8258/realjapan.html

- John Belushi Tribute Page www.belushi.com
- Mostar Gallery users.ox.ac.uk/~kebl0089/mostar.html
- Click Games
- GameStorm www.gamestorm.com
- Happy Puppy www.happypuppy.com
- World Opponent Network www.won.net
- All Games Network www.allgames.com
- 2 A.M. www.2am.com
- Myth II: Soulblighter www.bungie.com/mythii
- PC Game Finder www.pcgame.com
- Gameguru www.gameguru.net
- Diablo II www.blizzard.com/diablo2
- Battle.net www.battle.net
- Click Forward: Yahoo! Internet Live
- Yahoo! Internet Live www.ylive.com
- Ask the Pros www.foxsports.com/chat
- Newborns www.lifetimetv.com/chat/frameset.shtml/unmoderated_chats.html
- Talk Back with Randy Johnson webchat13.wbs.net/webchat3.so?cmd=cmd_doorway:Talkback_WBS
- Near Death Experience pseudo.com
- Sailing Chat talkcity.com/calendar/events/event1782.html
- Bipolar Disorders Chat www.mhsource.com/bipolar/chat.html
- Worst Joke Wednesday www.zdnet.com/cc/chatevents.html#wednesday
- Literatzi Chat talkcity.com/calendar/events/event261.html
- Sabrina, the Teenage Witch Chat www.UltimateTV.com/interact/chat/rooms/sabrina.html
- Dream Interpretation Chat
www.lifeexperience.com/chat1.htm
- UFOOnline Chat www.geocities.com/Area51/Vault/1183/chat.html
- The Dread Beat Club www.broadcast.com/radio/shows/dreadbeatclub/
- O'Donnell on Computers
www.everythingcomputers.com/realaudio.htm
- International SF/Fantasy Chat
www.cybling.com
- Motorcycle Chats
www.motorcycle-usa.com/chat.htm
- Ozzie and Harriet www.broadcast.com/television/shows/ozzieandharriet
- Click Forward: Up & Coming
- The Prince of Egypt www.prince-of-egypt.com



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- ☐ Rhino Records www.rhino.com
- ☐ Y-Life's Interview with Randy Newman
www.yil.com/newman
- ☐ The Museum of Modern Art www.moma.org
- Click Charts**
- ☐ Yahoo! Chat chat.yahoo.com
- ☐ ESPN.com www.espn.com
- ☐ MetaCrawler www.metacrawler.com
- ☐ City.Net www.city.net
- ☐ StarChefs www.starchefs.com
- ☐ Media Metrix www.mediametrix.com
- ☐ Amazon.com amazon.com
- ☐ Tower Records towerrecords.com
- ☐ CompareNet www.comparenet.com
- ☐ HotBot www.hotbot.com
- Click Attitude**
- ☐ HotBot www.hotbot.com

COOL TOOLS (PAGES 52-56)

- ☐ Sharp Electronics Corp. www.sharp-usa.com
- ☐ E.W. Bridge www.ewbridge.com
- ☐ Powis Parker Inc. www.powis.com
- ☐ Dazzle Multimedia www.dazzle.com
- ☐ Kensington Technology Group
www.kensington.com
- ☐ Polycom Inc. www.polycom.com

E-Z USER (PAGES 58-65)

- ☐ FAQFinder infolab.cs.uchicago.edu/faqfinder
- ☐ Usenet FAQ Archive www.faqs.org/faqs
- ☐ NetLingo www.netlingo.com
- ☐ Ask the Surf Guru www.surf-guru.com
- ☐ Co-navigator www.conavigator.com
- ☐ CDnow www.cdnow.com
- ☐ CompuServe 4.0 www.compuserve.com
- ☐ Daily Double Download www.doubledownload.com
- ☐ Newbie-U www.newbie-u.com
- ☐ Norton Zip Rescue www.iomega.com
- ☐ GetRight www.getright.com
- ☐ Net E-Z User www.ezuser.com

E-Z SHOPPER (PAGE 66)

- ☐ The Finished Touch www.finishedtouch.com
- ☐ Millennium 2000 Countdown Clock
www.year2000.com/y2kproducts.html
- ☐ Forkchops www.forkchops.com
- ☐ Diamond Organics www.diamondorganics.com
- ☐ The Sales Channel www.thesaleschannel.com
- ☐ SampleSale www.samplesale.com

- ☐ Universal Studios' Online Auction
www.universalstudios.com
- ☐ Check Mate www.chekmate.com

TOUCHED BY THE NET (PAGES 68-72)

- ☐ ThinkQuest www.thinkquest.org
- ☐ ThinkQuest Library of Entries
www.thinkquest.org/library
- ☐ Poetry and Music of the War Between the States
www.erols.com/kfraser
- ☐ A Brief History of Banned Music
ericnuzum.com/banned
- ☐ Save the Adverb! www.demiurge.org/adverb
- ☐ Adoption Search and Reunion
www.highfiber.com/~rema
- ☐ Prisoners or Protected?
www.richmond.edu/~ed344/98/zoos

INCREDIBLY USEFUL SITES (PAGES 126-127)

- ☐ VCR Repair Instruction www.fixer.com/dbase
- ☐ Healthy Body Calculator
www.dietitian.com/lbw/lbw.html
- ☐ Woman Motorist New Car Buying Handbook
www.womanmotorist.com/handbook/handbook.shtml
- ☐ The Salary Zone www.ioma.com/zone
- ☐ Active Buyer's Guide www.activebuyersguide.com
- ☐ Quicken Business CashFinder www.cashfinder.com
- ☐ The AllApartments Resource Center
www.moversresource.com
- ☐ GuideStar: The Donor's Guide to the Nonprofit Universe
www.guidestar.org
- ☐ Independent Bankers Association of America
www.ibaa.org
- ☐ Incredibly Useful Site of the Day
www.incrediblyuseful.com

OLD WAY/NET WAY (PAGES 128-130)

- ☐ ExpressMed www.viagra-express.com
- ☐ The Pill Box Pharmacy www.thepillbox.com
- ☐ NetMarket www.netmarket.com
- ☐ Deep-Fried Prawns Flavored with Sea Urchin
www.asahi.co.jp/cooking/menu/k961209E.html
- ☐ Lifeguards' Home Page www.aloha.com/~lifeguards

NEW, NOTABLE & FUN (PAGES 132-133)

- ☐ Microsoft Sidewalk www.sidewalk.com
- ☐ HBO www.hbo.com
- ☐ Internet Movie Database www.imdb.com

- ☐ Turner Classic Movies tcm.turner.com
- ☐ Feed www.feedmag.com
- ☐ The New York Times Learning Network
www.nytimes.com/learning
- ☐ Time Digital cgi.pathfinder.com/time/digital
- ☐ The :30 Second Candidate www.pbs.org/30secondcandidate
- ☐ Oprah.com www.oprah.com
- ☐ Rolling Stone Network www.rollingstone.com
- ☐ Dawson's Desktop www.dawsonscreek.com
- ☐ Marilyn Manson www.marilynmanson.net
- ☐ RodStewartLive.com www.rodstewartlive.com
- ☐ CartoonNetwork.com www.cartoonnetwork.com
- ☐ Sesame Street Make-a-Story
www.ctw.org/preschool/makeastory/ss/home
- ☐ Charged www.charged.com
- ☐ Literary Traveler www.literarytraveler.com
- ☐ SoccerOnline www.socceronline.com
- ☐ National Spectators Association www.nsa.com
- ☐ You Can Zing www.zing.com/youcanzing
- ☐ Bottom Up: The Magazine for the High-Tech Startup
www.bottom-up.com
- ☐ shop.eonline.com shop.eonline.com

PRETTY STRANGE (PAGE 154)

- ☐ Hans Brinker Budget Hotel www.hans-brinker.com
- ☐ The Gallery of the Absurd www.absurdgallery.com
- ☐ Beer Cow Industries www.beercow.com
- ☐ Big-Eyes members.tripod.com/~besmirched/eyes.html
- ☐ Superbad www.superbad.com
- ☐ Easy Air Guitar mirrorimage.com/air
- ☐ Pretty Strange www.prettystrange.com

"THE BEST" OF WEB SITE REVIEWS BEST OF THE BEST SITES 98 (PAGES 134-151)

- ☐ Berkeley Digital Library SunSITE
sunsite.berkeley.edu
- ☐ Smithsonian Institution www.si.edu
- ☐ Project Gutenberg www.gutenberg.net
- ☐ CultureFinder www.culturefinder.com
- ☐ Dia Center for the Arts www.diacycenter.org
- ☐ The Monster Board www.monster.com
- ☐ The Riley Guide www.dbm.com/jobguide
- ☐ Hoover's Online www.hoovers.com
- ☐ Vault Reports www.jobvault.com
- ☐ Small Business Administration
www.sbaonline.sba.gov
- ☐ Microsoft Sidewalk www.sidewalk.com



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- ☐ Yahoo! Metros www.yahoo.com/promotions/metros
- ☐ CitySearch www.citysearch.com
- ☐ PlanetOut www.planetout.com
- ☐ SeniorNet www.seniornet.org
- ☐ ThirdAge www.thirdage.com
- ☐ Women.com www.women.com
- ☐ CNET www.cnet.com
- ☐ CNET Download.com download.cnet.com
- ☐ CNET Computers.com computers.cnet.com
- ☐ CNET Builder.com builder.cnet.com
- ☐ ZDNet www.zdnet.com
- ☐ WinFiles.com winfiles.com
- ☐ MacFixIt www.macfixit.com
- ☐ Happy Puppy www.happypuppy.com
- ☐ CNET Gamecenter.com gamecenter.cnet.com
- ☐ .edu www.usnews.com/usnews/edu
- ☐ Peterson's www.petersons.com
- ☐ Princeton Review Online www.review.com
- ☐ Teaching and Learning on the WWW www.mcll.dist.maricopa.edu/tl
- ☐ LD Online www.ldonline.org
- ☐ Thrive@Shape www.thriveonline.com/shape
- ☐ Phys www.phys.com
- ☐ Fitness Partner Connection Jumpsite www.primusweb.com/fitnesspartner
- ☐ Great Outdoor Recreation Pages www.gorp.com
- ☐ Epicurious Food food.epicurious.com
- ☐ Food Network www.foodtv.com
- ☐ Zagat Survey www.zagat.com
- ☐ FedWorld www.fedworld.gov
- ☐ Thomas thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas2.html
- ☐ Mayo Health O@asis www.mayohealth.org
- ☐ Medscape www.medscape.com
- ☐ RxList www.rxlist.com
- ☐ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov
- ☐ Disney.com www.disney.com
- ☐ MaMaMedia www.mamamedia.com
- ☐ Parent Soup www.parentsoup.com
- ☐ HouseNet www.housenet.com
- ☐ Better Homes and Gardens Home Improvement Encyclopedia www.bhglive.com/homeimp/docs
- ☐ ShockRave www.shockrave.com
- ☐ The Onion www.theonion.com
- ☐ Wrecked Humor Collection www.cris.com/~Dcashman/humor
- ☐ Yack! www.yack.com
- ☐ broadcast.com www.broadcast.com
- ☐ Yahoo! www.yahoo.com
- ☐ Excite www.excite.com
- ☐ Lycos www.lycos.com
- ☐ AltaVista altavista.com
- ☐ Infoseek www.infoseek.com
- ☐ HotBot www.hotbot.com
- ☐ Search Engine Watch www.searchenginewatch.com
- ☐ Learn the Net www.learnthenet.com
- ☐ Everything E-Mail everythingemail.net
- ☐ Quadzilla: D.J. Quad's Ultimate HTML Site www.quadzilla.com
- ☐ Webmonkey www.webmonkey.com
- ☐ Netsurfer Digest www.netsurf.com/nsd
- ☐ GeoCities www.geocities.com
- ☐ Tripod www.tripod.com
- ☐ Quicken.com www.quicken.com
- ☐ The Digital Daily www.irs.ustreas.gov
- ☐ The Wall Street Journal www.wsj.com
- ☐ Silicon Investor www.techstocks.com
- ☐ TheStreet.com www.thestreet.com
- ☐ The Industry Standard www.theindustrystandard.com
- ☐ Inter@ctive Week www.interactiveweek.com
- ☐ MovieLink www.movielink.com
- ☐ IMDb www.imdb.com
- ☐ TVGEN www.tvgen.com
- ☐ Gist TV www.gist.com
- ☐ Mr. Showbiz www.mrshowbiz.com
- ☐ E! Online www.eonline.com
- ☐ SonicNet www.sonicnet.com
- ☐ JamTV www.jamtv.com
- ☐ Billboard Online www.billboard.com
- ☐ All-Music Guide www.allmusic.com
- ☐ Tunes www.tunes.com
- ☐ LiveConcerts.com www.liveconcerts.com
- ☐ The International Lyrics Server www.lyrics.ch
- ☐ Ultimate Band List www.ubl.com
- ☐ MSNBC.com www.msnbc.com
- ☐ CNN.com www.cnn.com
- ☐ ABCNews.com www.abcnews.com
- ☐ Pathfinder www.pathfinder.com
- ☐ The New York Times www.nytimes.com
- ☐ USA Today www.usatoday.com
- ☐ Salon www.salonmagazine.com
- ☐ Slate www.slate.com
- ☐ Feed www.feedmag.com
- ☐ HotWired www.hotwired.com
- ☐ IntellectualCapital.com www.intellectualcapital.com
- ☐ The Weather Channel www.weather.com
- ☐ Britannica Online www.eb.com
- ☐ Encyclopedia.com www.encyclopedia.com
- ☐ OneLook Dictionaries www.onelook.com
- ☐ Bartlett's Familiar Quotations www.columbia.edu/acis/bartlett/bartlett~religion/links/vrindex.html
- ☐ Jewishnet www.jewishnet.net
- ☐ DharmaNet International www.dharmanet.org
- ☐ IslamCity www.islam.org
- ☐ The Hindu Universe www.hindunet.org
- ☐ Christianity Online www.christianity.net
- ☐ The Discovery Channel www.discovery.com
- ☐ NASA www.nasa.gov
- ☐ The Exploratorium www.exploratorium.edu
- ☐ eBay www.ebay.com
- ☐ Amazon.com www.amazon.com
- ☐ Barnesandnoble.com www.barnesandnoble.com
- ☐ Consumer Reports www.consumerreports.org
- ☐ Tower Records www.towerrecords.com
- ☐ Music Boulevard www.musicbvd.com
- ☐ Realtor.com www.realtor.com
- ☐ Microsoft HomeAdvisor www.homeadvisor.com
- ☐ Ticketmaster Online www.ticketmaster.com
- ☐ NetTiks www.telecharge.com
- ☐ Reel www.reel.com
- ☐ Consumers Car Club www.carclub.com
- ☐ Microsoft CarPoint www.carpoint.com
- ☐ ESPN.com espn.sportszone.com
- ☐ CNN/SI www.cnn.si.com
- ☐ CBS SportsLine www.sportsline.com
- ☐ Fastball www.fastball.com
- ☐ Major League Baseball www.majorleaguebaseball.com
- ☐ NBA.com www.nba.com
- ☐ NFL.com www.nfl.com
- ☐ Sports Illustrated for Kids www.sikids.com
- ☐ Travelocity www.travelocity.com
- ☐ Microsoft Expedia Travel www.expedia.com
- ☐ Biztravel.com www.biztravel.com
- ☐ Maps on Us www.mapsonus.com
- ☐ InnSite www.innsite.com
- ☐ Roadside America www.roadsideamerica.com

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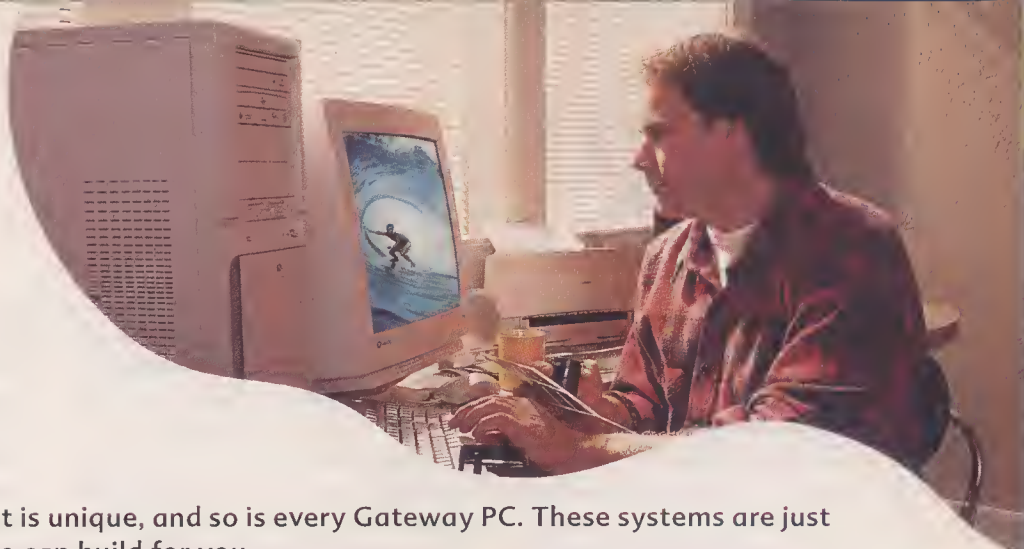


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- SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64D
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BACKCHAT

BACKCHAT@ZD.COM

Officer on the Bridge

I am an avid Trekker (although not a member of the cult or a walking *Trek* encyclopedia), and I like hearing about the best places to go on the Web for *Star Trek*-related info. The one problem I found with your articles ["The *Star Trek* Universe Online," December '98, page 102] is that there wasn't a category for Best *Star Trek*-Themed Chat Site. If you don't mind, I'd like to nominate the chat site I go to. It's called Ten Forward. Contrary to what you might have been expecting, I am not Ten Forward's creator; I am simply a member of Ten Forward and a reader of your magazine. If you'd like to visit us sometime, the URL is [www.intergate.bc.ca/personal/danneff/tenforward]. I'm sure you will enjoy yourself, even if you aren't a die-hard *Star Trek* fan. And if you tell me when you want to

visit, I'll make sure and drop by and ask Guinan to get you a nice drink!

—COMMANDER ROBBY MADDOX

crobbby@neotown.com

Site Oversight

Thanks for your article "Educational Resources for Teachers & Parents" [December '98, page 198]. However, you missed an important site. Over 95,000 school-board members nationwide, most of them unpaid volunteers, work tirelessly to improve public schools and keep them community based. The site for their organization, the National School Boards Association, is [www.nsba.org].

—SUSAN R. BUTLER

SButler@nsba.org

A Hanging Offense?

I wonder where Jaclyn Easton has

been getting her framing done ["E-Z Shopper," November '98, page 64]. "Snarky frame-store salespeople"? Please don't put us all in that group. Artuframe.com is a really cool site, but when my customers want a little extra touch—such as double or triple mats, V-grooves, French mats, fillets, and so on—they come to me. And they have *never* called me snarky.

—PETER WELSTEAD

frameshop@on.aibn.com

Where Credit Is Due

You did your readers a disservice in your Web banking feature ["Online Banking: Whom Can We Trust?" November '98, page 114]. You recommend going with a local bank for everyday needs and a cyberbank for investments. Why go with a bank at all? Credit unions are not-for-profit financial cooperatives, democ-



information



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atically owned and controlled by their members. Independent data from Bank Rate Monitor, Consumer Federation of America, U.S. Public Interest Research Group, and others confirms that credit unions have better rates, fewer fees, and friendlier service. Best of all, the percentage of the nation's 12,000 credit unions that feature online services tops that of the banks. Your not-for-profit credit union is far more likely to have convenient, affordable remote access than is your for-profit bank.

—DONNA ST. CLAIR
donnas517@aol.com

The Answer's a Parent

After reading the recent article "Block That Site!" by Mark Frauenfelder [November '98, page 92], it would seem fair to say that filters will obviously never solve this issue. Guidance and

supervision are the real defenses parents must use to stop their children from viewing material deemed indecent. Anyone who subscribes to cable television can find programs that they would not wish their child to see, but who makes sure they don't view it? The Net generally doesn't force explicit subject matter on people; you have to look for it. Teaching your children morals and ethics is the only way to keep them away from this material.

—DAMIEN TUCKER
CgX007@aol.com

It Only Hertz When We Laugh

I was reading the comparison of Web sites for finding a used computer in the November issue ["Site Test," page 125], and I noticed that you were looking for systems with a 33-MHz modem installed. I figure this is a

misprint, and that you meant a 33.6Kbps modem. Either that, or I'm in the dark. And if so, I'd like to know about a 33-MHz modem—because the Internet would fly!

—RANDY SCHAUER
schauer9136@duq.edu

Information, Please

Maybe it's just me, but in the last couple of weeks I've tried unsuccessfully to contact a number of businesses through their Web pages. Hey, guys: How about your phone number on your Web page, or maybe an address? Most don't even give an *e-mail* address. It's great to have a Web page to describe your company and show your Web-consciousness. But what good is all that if the people you're trying to reach can't reach you?

—DONALD J. LEWIS
dlsound@hotmail.com



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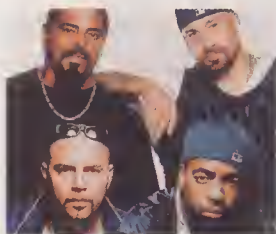
Click!

around the net

EDITED BY RON BEL BRUNO

LIFESTYLES

OF THE WELL CONNECTED



CYPRESS HILL

[www.cypressonline.com]

Music-loving Web amateurs are seldom shy about penning and posting concert reviews on their sites—which makes the fan critiques published by million-selling hip-hoppers Cypress Hill all the more satisfying. At Cypress Online, band members B-Real and Bobo are turning the tables on the process as they share their takes on the venues at which they perform and the crowds coming to see them. And when B-Real isn't poring over Web sites (High Times is a favorite), he's sending e-mail reports from hotel rooms around the world to his Webmaster. B-Real notes that Cypress Online is also the place to go for song lyrics, including those from the group's latest disc, *IV*: "We try to put our lyric sheets up there, since we don't usually put them on the records." He invites you to write at [breal001@aol.com] but asks you not to get rude. As he points out: "I can always change [the address] if it gets too crazy." —J.O.C.



MEMORABLE SITE

How to Spend a Starry, Starry Night

THE VINCENT VAN GOGH INFORMATION GALLERY

[www.vangoghgallery.com]

As self-proclaimed arbiters of twentieth-century culture draft their Top 100 lists ad nauseam, we buck all the navel gazing by paying homage to the Web home of a single great nineteenth-century artist. Don't know where to locate one of Vincent van Gogh's 876 original paintings? You'll find 99 percent of them in this gallery, along with notes on the origin of each work. You can also read the master's personal letters here, and a full account of the famous "ear story." If he had been able to master keystrokes the way he had those renowned brush strokes, van Gogh might have spent many a starry, starry night touring these pages for some personal insight. After you visit, see if you don't agree. —M.F.

THE CLICK CLIQUE: James Oliver Cury, Dean Foust, Michael Freidson, Mark Glaser, Reuben Maness, Charles Pappas, Marc Saltzman. **Write to Click@zd.com.**



NET OBSESSIONS

PEOPLE, PLACES, & TRENDS



WILL SMITH

He's an enemy of the state on-screen and wanted on the Web, too. Get jiggy with the former Fresh Prince at one of his photo-heavy fan sites. **YAHOO! SITE COUNT:** 14. Start @: **WILL SMITH** [www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Studio/4866]



POKER

It's not just for dogs and single guys anymore. To wit: Matt Damon cleaned up in *Rounders*, and the Rat Pack is cool again. Look to the Web for a full house of poker tips and tricks. **YAHOO! SITE COUNT:** 28. Start @: **DAN'S POKER DICTIONARY** [www.universe.digex.net/~kimberg/pokerdict.html]



COURTNEY LOVE

With her latest CD, *Celebrity Skin*, one of the Web's first high-profile has-beens is gliding on a serious second wind. Exhibit A: Almost three dozen sites are devoted to this angst-ridden rocker and Hole, her critically lauded band. **YAHOO! SITE COUNT:** 34. Start @: **NORTHERN STAR: HOLE** [heavenly.simplenet.com/hole]

Q+A

JOE DIAMOND

Watchdogs Hold Their Ground

Will a paroled convict return to a life of crime? New Yorkers unwilling to find out are using a powerful online forum to state their case.



PAROLEWATCH [www.parolewatch.org], created and maintained by victims'-advocacy group Take Back New York, lists the offenses committed by—and parole status of—more than 37,000 potentially violent felons in New York's prisons. It also acts as a conduit of opinion between the public and the parole board. *Y-Life* spoke with Joe Diamond, the site's founder.

Y-LIFE: Is the parole board legally bound to read e-mail sent to ParoleWatch?

DIAMOND: No, the parole board doesn't have to look at it if it doesn't want to. But the people in power have to respond to the voters, so yes, [the e-mail] carries weight.

Y-LIFE: The American Civil Liberties Union accused ParoleWatch of "building on the public's fear of crime." Thoughts?

DIAMOND: If somebody dropped nuclear waste in the middle of a residential area, and people went around screaming, "Hey, there's nuclear radiation, and we're all going to die of poisoning," you could say that that's being an alarmist, too. [Released felons are] a legitimate danger.

Y-LIFE: What was your motivation for starting this group?

DIAMOND: I was mugged in 1992. But overall, it's because I want the world to be safer for my kids and their kids.

Y-LIFE: Any plans to go national with your cause?

DIAMOND: Yes, when we raise enough money—the toughest challenge of all.

"It's middle-age crazy.... They get a computer. They start playing solitaire and then go to chat rooms. The next thing you know, they're meeting someone at the Red Roof Inn."

—PRIVATE EYE DAN GARRETT, who says 15 percent of his cases involve Net-based infidelity, to *The Anderson Independent-Mail* of South Carolina

"There is a sensual aspect to reading that would disappear with some sort of electronic delivery.... I want to hold a book, feel its weight, admire the typography, smell the ink."

—ALISON GOROON, author of the Kate Henry series and other mystery novels, to Nando.net

NET BRIEFS

MICROSOFT WINS SOMETHING.

A recent J.D. Power & Associates study ranked Microsoft Network highest among the nation's Internet service providers in terms of customer satisfaction. The survey, which polled more than 5,000 American homes, slotted market-share leader America Online in fifth place.... **CONSIDER THE SOURCE.** In late October, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission charged 44 defendants with using the Internet to issue "inside" stock info via e-mail or Web postings. The crime? These ostensibly savvy tipsters received cash from the recommended companies.... **MILLIONS SERVED.** In November, America Online's worldwide membership exceeded 14 million users—an increase of more than 1 million members since its previous milestone, only a



month and a half before.... **HISTORY-MAKING NET VIDEOS** of everything from presidential testimony to space-shuttle liftoffs are surely getting media attention. But given the present limitations of PC bandwidth and hardware, only 25 percent of America's households owning PCs can actually retrieve and view those videos, says Web audience-measurement firm Media Metrix.... **JAVA JAM.** Are WebTV users being shut out of *Entertainment Tonight* Online, MSNBC.com, and Yahoo! Chat? Not exactly, but Microsoft-owned WebTV will no longer support the use of the Java programming language on Web pages. Thus, WebTV subscribers can no longer benefit from such Java-based enhancements as stock tickers or scrolling sports scores. —M.F.

WHAT JEEVES SAID



Isn't it time to turn in your Magic 8-Ball and start looking for better answers than "Most likely" to life's big questions? We posed some tough, plain-English queries to Jeeves, the virtual Brit residing at the search engine **ASK JEEVES** [www.askjeeves.com]. Following are his plain-English answers.

Q: Where is Jimmy Hoffa?

A: Nosferatu's coffin

Q: Is there a God?

A: See "Christmas: The Untold Story"

Q: Are they real?

A: Visit "The Madonna FAQ"

Q: Does haste really make waste?

A: "Don't waste my time"

Q: Is Generalissimo

Francisco Franco still dead?

A: Visit "separation and loss" or "celebrity gravesites"

Q: Are we really giving peace a chance?

A: "What is chance?"

Q: Why am I itching all the time?

A: Read "One Man's Story of Fiberglass Mayhem"

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had a way of
hurrying things along.

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doubling your
modem speed too.)

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Shotgun 112K Technology is supported nationwide by leading Internet providers in over 2,000 cities, including popular ISPs like NetCom. So look for the Shotgun logo when buying a modem, and start getting speeds up to 112K today.



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IN OVER 2,000 CITIES.

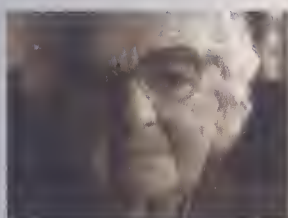
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<http://www.diamondmm.com/shotgun>

Though these modem/modem technologies are capable of 56Kbps/112Kbps download performance, line impairments, public telephone infrastructure and other external technological factors currently prevent maximum 56Kbps/112Kbps connections. © 1998 Diamond Multimedia Systems, Inc. All rights reserved. Diamond, the Diamond logo, and SupraSonic are registered trademarks of Diamond Multimedia Systems, Inc. SupraExpress, the Shotgun Technology logo, and Shotgun are trademarks of Diamond Multimedia Systems, Inc. Rockwell and the Rockwell logo are trademarks of Rockwell International. All other trademarks or registered trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

MONEY

Go ahead: Try to sell back to your broker those 100 shares of Intel you just bought, and he'll likely give you anywhere from \$12.50 to \$75 less than you just paid him. That's because he's charged you a *spread* on the sale. Buyers and sellers at WIT CAPITAL's (www.witcapital.com) new Direct Stock Market avoid these extra charges. The site acts as a liaison between independent investors looking to buy or sell stocks, and it usually asks a fee of only \$14.95 to \$19.95. It's just another case of the Net replacing mean ol' Mr. Middleman. —D.F.



THOUGH THE SOCIAL SECURITY Administration (SSA) reports having made great strides in fixing its Year 2000 bugs, you might want to make sure it's keeping up with something a bit more fundamental—such as how much money you're making each year, so you get the appropriate benefits come your "third age." The SSA's PERSONAL EARNINGS AND BENEFIT ESTIMATE STATEMENT page (www.ssa.gov/pebes) lets you fill out a form online to request your PEBES report. Once it arrives (by conventional mail), check its figures for accuracy, and set the record straight if something's amiss. Otherwise, you may reach age 62 only to find that your government-sponsored nest egg was scrambled long ago. —C.P.



HOME

Who's That Knocking at Your Door?

How do you know which painters, plumbers, and electricians are trustworthy enough to allow into that leveraged little castle you call home? The ContractorWatch feature on IMPROVENET (www.improvenet.com) screens more than 600,000 contractors in all 50 states against public records and its own legal and financial criteria. Plug in your ZIP code and select the kind of work you want done from a menu (e.g., bathroom remodeling, landscaping, roofing), and CW shows you how many contractors for that region and specialty pass muster. When you're ready to narrow the field, retype your ZIP code and work category, write a brief project description, and select a budget range ("up to \$200," "\$200 to \$500," etc.). ImproveNet will e-mail you a list of the highest-rated contractors in your own backyard. Ratings include "R" (the contractor has been "strongly recommended by industry professionals or past customers") and "Li" (the contractor meets the licensing requirements of his/her state). Your own gut instinct should be your ultimate guide, but CW will at least weed out the non-contenders. —C.P.

search results

TV CLASSICS

Three's Company	2,376
My Three Sons	1,201
Sanford and Son	764
Isabel Sanford	181



FOTO FANTASIES

FREE STUFF

Collaborative calendars—group personal organizers that let coworkers coordinate schedules—are a Web natural. The free online scheduling service at **APPOINT.NET** (www.appoint.net) is part contact manager, part task scheduler, and part event planner. Use it to match up your meetings, deadlines, and life's other small displeasures with those of your colleagues. Whenever you update your Appoint.net agenda, it's easy to do the same to those of your coworkers, too—thus making sure no one schedules a staff confab against your weekly power-yoga lunch. The service saves time, money, and disk space by eliminating the need for other contact-management and calendar programs. —C.P.



CAREERS



The **FUTURESTEP** (www.futurestep.com) job-placement site claims to cut the average four- to six-month executive search down to a single month. Its job seekers receive, among other benefits, an assessment of their market value by recruitment professionals, as well as an analysis of the specific corporate cultures and positions they best fit. The site, a service of leading executive-search firm Korn/Ferry International, boasts more connections than a Washington lobbyist. —C.P.



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YAHOO YENTA

WRITE YENTA AT CLICK@ZD.COM



Dear Yenta,
No disrespect intended, but how does an old lady like you know so much about the Net? And why don't you sound like a real Yenta?
—Wondering in Waukegan

Dear Wondering,
Everything I know about the Net (as well as a few things about food poisoning), I learned at a Gray Singles weekend in the Catskills—yes, where *Dirty Dancing* was set. Along with a great floor show by Lola Falana, the hotel package included a Net class for seniors, such as your Yenta. In no time, I was a chat-room hit, and I stayed on at the hotel through the winter season as its resident Net expert (a real mitzvah*, since my lousy son-in-law forgot to pick me up on Sunday night). And as far as this “real Yenta” thing goes: What am I supposed to do, wear knee socks? Do you still part your hair down the middle? Wear a mood ring? Times change, *bubbala*, and so does Yenta's shtick. A girl's got to make a living, you know!

*mitzvah (Hebrew): a blessing or good fortune

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hammock.ifas.ufl.edu/bxt/fairs/16925

THE NATIONAL CUFF LINK SOCIETY
www.cufflink.com

THE GOTHIC INTELLIGENCE TEST
www.obscure.org/wombat/amusements/int-test.html



CRUSTACEANS OF SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA
www.mov.vic.gov.au/crust

HOMEGROWN HOT LIST

Y-LIFE PRESENTS NOTABLE PERSONAL PAGES ON OUR RADAR THIS MONTH



PEOPLE

BELLY UP TO THE BROWSER BAR

ZAHIR'S OASIS is the work of a male belly dancer. Hey, why are you laughing? Zahir truly respects his trade, and once you're done reading his story, you probably will as well. [www.geocities.com/Area51/Lair/8962/oasis.html]

POLITICS

MEN'S ROOM

In today's sexually charged political climate, it might be wise to visit **THE CAMILLE PAGLIA HOME PAGE** for some guidance. Fan Jonathan Poletti—yes, he's a man—calls the feminist author “America's foremost female intellectual.” The many Paglia works on display here include a rant about a girl named Monica. Watch out, Lewinsky. [www.teleport.com/~poletti/Paglia]



TRAVELS

JAPAN VÉRITÉ

Alisa Sa Nada, a 17-year-old, American-born nisei (second-generation Japanese), created **REAL JAPAN** to “show the modern Japan and what it really is.” And it works. Vivid photos of her country's current punklike fashions and a cool slang dictionary will help you get over your backward cultural stereotypes in no time. [www.geocities.com/Tokyo/Ginza/8258/realjapan.html]

POP CULTURE

ET TU, BLUTO?

If Blues Brother, Killer Bee, and samurai dry cleaner John Belushi hadn't died of a drug overdose in 1982, he would have turned 50 this month. Matt Oddo's **JOHN BELUSHI TRIBUTE I-AGE** keeps the memories alive. [www.belushi.com] —M.F.

LABORS OF LOVE

YAHOO! CREATORS JERRY YANG AND OAVID FILO SELECT A SITE BUILT WITH TRUE PASSION

They Took a Village

MOSTAR GALLERY

[users.ox.ac.uk/~kebl0089/mostar.html]

Before the bombs started to fall on Bosnia and Herzegovina, the city of Mostar was chock-full of architectural gems from the Ottoman Empire. It was also the hometown of Fedja Hadrovic, a refugee forced to flee his beloved birthplace. The bombs may have razed Mostar, but Hadrovic

won't let the world forget the former splendor of his home. Mostar remains standing—in a sense—today thanks to Hadrovic's remarkable online restoration. Take your time and explore the cobblestoned streets of this ancient city, keeping in mind that everything you see survives only on the Web—and in the memories of Mostar's many saddened citizens.





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THE PLAYERS

MULTIPLAYER PICKS

The five most popular game titles at GameStorm.

- 1 AIR WARRIOR III
- 2 Aliens Online
- 3 Legends of Kesmai
- 4 Multiplayer Battletech: Solaris
- 5 Rolemaster: Megastorm

Rankings reflect October traffic at www.gamestorm.com.



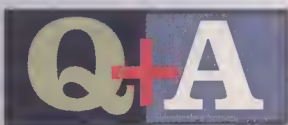
DELTA FORCE

TOP DEMOS

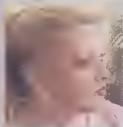
Happy Puppy's most popular tryouts.

- 1 DELTA FORCE
- 2 Hard Truck: Road to Victory
- 3 Shogo
- 4 The Fifth Element
- 5 Infinite Worlds

October downloads at www.happypuppy.com



CARMEN STRIBLING



She "goes fishin'" for hours at a time with Sierra's Trophy Bass

2 fishing simulation on the World Opponent Network [www.won.net].

VITALS: 36-year-old Web designer from Fort Polk, Louisiana

NAME OF ONLINE PERSONA: Legs to Heaven ("I'm 5-foot-8, and all legs.")

HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE A GOOD CATCH? I jump up and down and holler a lot.

HOW CLOSE IS VIRTUAL FISHING TO THE REAL THING? There's a similar level of excitement when you reel in your catch.

REALLY? YOU'RE KIDDING. No. After all, how many times can you do this in real life?

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE OFF-LINE LEISURE ACTIVITY? I play a lot of golf, even though I suck at it.

Let's Go to the Video Player

Though the online-gaming culture is resembling the professional-sports world more and more these days (think gaining leagues and player cards), you still can't flip on the TV and watch hours of game coverage. But you *can* boot up RealPlayer 5.0 on your desktop and tune in to the **ALL GAMES NETWORK** [www.allgames.com]. Its 12 streaming video programs cover a broad mix of gaming genres and topics. Leading the pack is *Game Time!*, AGN's flagship show. It provides daily analysis of what's hot and not in the gaming space and why, along with behind-the-scenes profiles of tomorrow's games and the designers who are making them possible. Adding to AGN's TV-like atmosphere is the fact that



A FEW OF YOUR AGN HOSTS

several shows walk viewers through actual game play, showing different techniques and scenarios along the way. Coming attractions: The AGN will Webcast live this May from the Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) in Los Angeles—with its own eight-man camera crew. Hey, is this the AGN or the NFL? —M.S.

GAMING ROUNDUP

2 A.M.

This 2-year-old multiplayer network has introduced a free game-play option—but there's a minor catch: Players get unlimited access to all classic games (poker, backgammon, chess, etc.), original titles (e.g., *Alliance & Defiance*, *Total War*), and all tournaments only as long as they click on three ad banners per hour. And yes, the site's well-known cash prizes remain intact. [www.2am.com]

MYTH II: SOULBLIGHTER

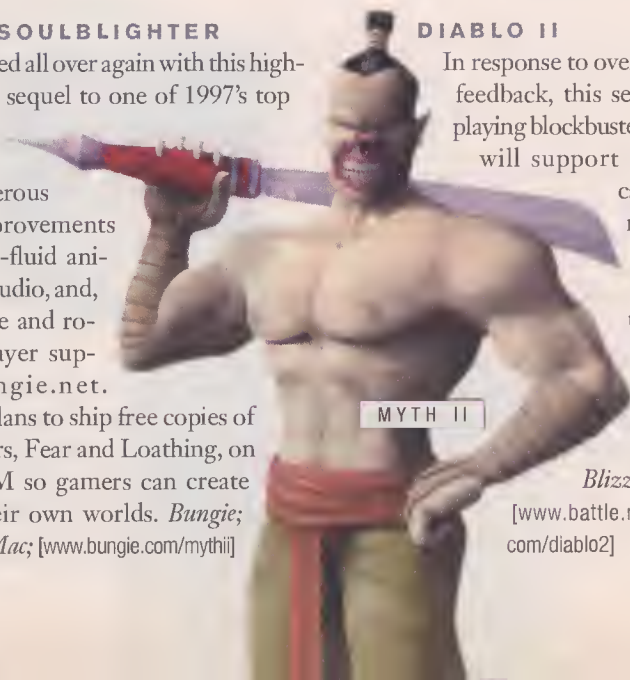
Get Myth-tified all over again with this highly anticipated sequel to one of 1997's top real-time strategy games. Numerous interface improvements include more-fluid animation, 3-D audio, and, of course, free and robust multiplayer support at Bungie.net. Bungie also plans to ship free copies of its level editors, Fear and Loathing, on the CD-ROM so gamers can create and trade their own worlds. *Bungie; \$50; PC and Mac; [www.bungie.com/mythii]*

PC GAME FINDER

When you're using a search engine to find a cheat code before game time, you surely don't need AltaVista to dump 24,056 listings of unrelated sites on you. The Game Finder (at PCGame.com) and Gameguru search engines point gamers toward demos, reviews, strategy guides, cheat codes, add-on levels, and other useful gaming tools. [www.pcgame.com]; [www.gameguru.net]

DIABLO II

In response to overwhelming player feedback, this sequel to the role-playing blockbuster (out by midyear) will support 3-D accelerator cards. It also offers more indoor and outdoor environments, characters, enemies, and artifacts, along with free multiplayer support via Battle.net. *Blizzard; \$50; PC only; [www.battle.net]; [www.blizzard.com/diablo2]* —M.S.



MYTH II

Microsoft



MOVE



...THE CONTROLLER HARD RIGHT AND YOUR BIKE MOVES HARD RIGHT TO AVOID A PILE-UP

...THE CONTROLLER HARD LEFT AND USE MUSCLES YOU NEVER KNEW YOU HAD AS YOU DIVE INTO A LOOP-TO-LOOP

...THE CONTROLLER HARDLY AT ALL AND COMMAND THE GAME WITH EVER SO SUEETLE MOVEMENTS THAT'LL LEAVE YOUR OPPONENT IN TEARS

Welcome to the Microsoft SideWinder Freestyle Pro joystick. Now you can throw yourself into the action. Literally. Every on-screen movement is controlled with your own movement. It's called motion-sensing technology. Accurate and highly responsive, not to mention works with your favorite games. It's programmable buttons and super slick design fits your hand like a glove. Which is handy when you're throwing yourself from one side of the room to the other.

Microsoft Motocross Madness™ comes free with the Freestyle Pro.



Freestyle Pro

MICROSOFT

SIDEWINDER

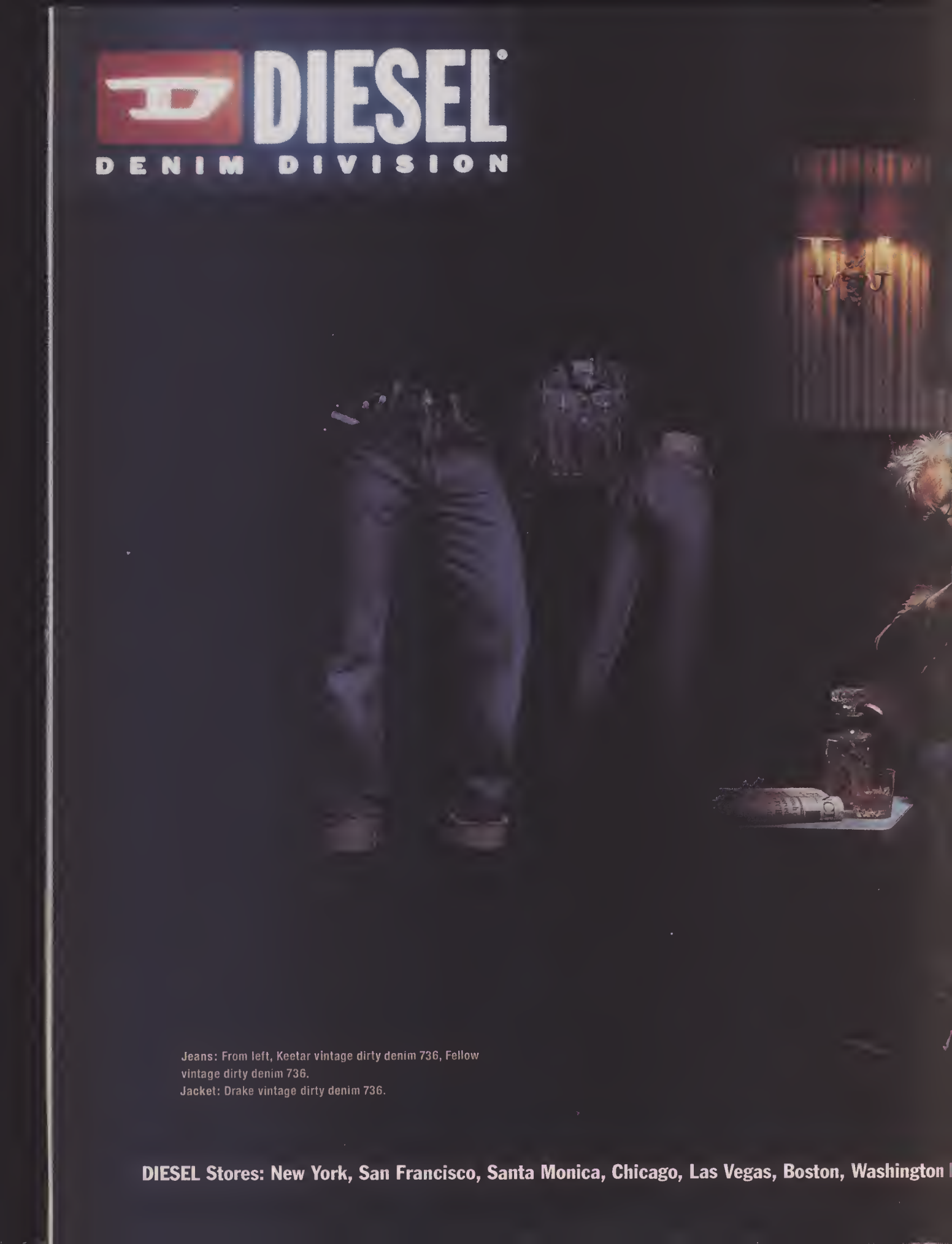
Want more? Visit microsoft.com/SideWinder

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DIESEL[®]

DENIM DIVISION



Jeans: From left, Keetar vintage dirty denim 736, Fellow vintage dirty denim 736.
Jacket: Drake vintage dirty denim 736.

DIESEL Stores: New York, San Francisco, Santa Monica, Chicago, Las Vegas, Boston, Washington

Only the finest quality 12½ oz denim is good enough for Diesel.
This is overdyed, then washed, and finally distressed. The result is
antique dirty denim which has an aged, vintage
appearance. A bit like your grandmother.



DENIM DIVISION #4
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
DIESEL USA 212.755.9200 WWW.DIESEL.COM

YAHOO! INTERNET LIVE

WHEN & WHERE ON THE WEB

A *Y-Life* sampler of lively Net events.
Daily updates at www.ylives.com

Times are Eastern.

SUNDAYS

NOON

ASK THE PRDS

Post questions directly to John Madden, Terry Bradshaw, et al. during NFL game breaks.

www.foxsports.com/chat

8 P.M.

NEWBORNS

Moms and dads chat here about everything from diaper rash to teething.
www.lifetimetv.com/chat/frameset.shtml/unmoderated_chats.html

MONDAYS

9 P.M.

TALK BACK WITH RANDY JOHNSON

The place for contentious and spirited discussion of current events, here and abroad.
webchat13.wbs.net/webchat3.so?cmd=cmd_doorway:Talkback_WBS

TUESDAYS

8 P.M.

NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE

A motley batch of heavy metal in all its manifestations.
pseudo.com



10 P.M.

SAILING CHAT

Sailors from all over the world meet at this virtual marina.
talkcity.com/calendar/events/event1782.html

10 P.M., FIRST TUESDAY

OF EACH MONTH

BIPOLAR DISORDERS CHAT

Manic-depression sufferers and their loved ones discuss the highs and lows of this difficult condition.
www.mhsource.com/bipolar/chat.html

WEDNESDAYS

9 P.M.

ATHLETE DIRECT LIVE

Talk with the biggest names in the sports world.
AOL Keyword: Live

10 P.M.

WORST JOKE WEDNESDAY

Trade groaners, bad puns, and ridiculous riddles.
www.zdnet.com/cc/chatevents.html#wednesday



NEWMAN



POLLOCK'S LUCIFER

U P & C O M I N G

FILM

Take an animated feature, add celebrity vocals and a great score, and you get a serious awards-night contender (think of *The Lion King*). DreamWorks taps this formula with the full-length animated film **THE PRINCE OF EGYPT**. It stars Val Kilmer as the voice of Moses, with Ralph Fiennes sitting in as Rameses. Sandra Bullock, Danny Glover, and Steve Martin, among others, provide additional vocal talent. The movie's official site [www.prince-of-egypt.com] pays special attention to the unusual abundance of music created in conjunction with the film's release, offering half-minute audio clips from the original sound track as well as country and gospel tunes by the likes of Vince Gill and Boyz II Men.

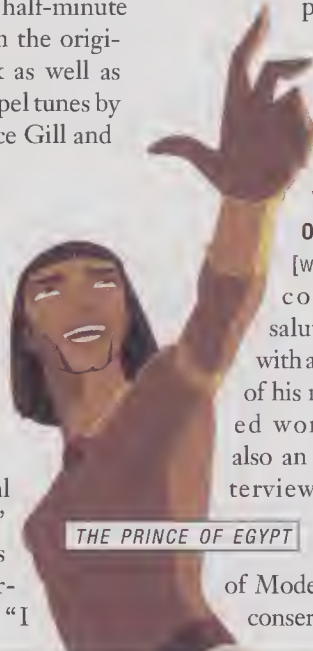
MUSIC

Whether you know rocker Randy Newman by his '60s pop oddity "Davy the Fat Boy," the controversial "Short People" in the mid-'70s or his considerably fluffier "I

Love L.A." in the '80s, you're bound to find something memorable in *Guilty: 30 Years of Randy Newman*, a new four-CD boxed set. It includes demo cuts, live tracks, rarities, and an 80-page booklet with Newman's own notes about his bizarre, often sardonic songs. Visit the **RHINO RECORDS** site [www.rhino.com] for music clips, photos, and some background on this enduring artist. And don't miss *Y-Life*'s recent interview with Newman at [www.yil.com/newman]. —J.O.C.

ART

His work isn't without its detractors, but no one can deny Jackson Pollock his place on the shortlist of contemporary-art greats. This month, **NEW YORK'S MUSEUM OF MODERN ART** [www.moma.org] continues its salute to Pollock with a virtual gallery of his most celebrated works. There's also an insightful interview with James Coddington, the Museum of Modern Art's chief conservator.



THE PRINCE OF EGYPT

YAHOO! INTERNET LIVE

WHEN & WHERE ON THE WEB

THURSDAYS

11 P.M.

LITERATZI CHAT

An essential stop for those reading (or perhaps writing) the Great American Novel.
talkcity.com/calendar/events/event261.html

FRIDAYS

7 P.M. AND 10 P.M.

SABRINA, THE TEENAGE WITCH CHAT

Ponder the many virtues of TV's prime-time sorceress.
www.UltimateTV.com/interact/chat/rooms/sabrina.html

10 P.M.

DREAM INTERPRETATION CHAT

Join in on this session that combines intuitive dream consultation and a discussion of dream symbolism.
www.lifeexperience.com/chat1.htm



UFO ONLINE CHAT

Discuss the UFO phenomenon, along with paranormal events and sightings.
www.geocities.com/Area51/Vault/1183/chat.html

MIDNIGHT

THE DREAD BEAT CLUB

A jammin' reggae radio show from Austin, Texas.
www.broadcast.com/radio/shows/dreadbeatclub

SATURDAYS

1 P.M.

O'DONNELL ON COMPUTERS

Silicon Valley expert Bob O'Donnell answers your hardware and software questions.
www.everythingcomputers.com/realaudio.htm

2 P.M.

INTERNATIONAL SF/FANTASY CHAT

Discuss sci-fi and fantasy in all their global variations.
www.cybling.com

DAILY AND OTHER

8 P.M. - 11 P.M., DAILY

MOTORCYCLE CHATS

Take part in dirt-bike, street-bike, or motorcycle-racing chats.
www.motorcycle-usa.com/chat.htm

7:30 P.M., WEEKDAYS

OZZIE AND HARRIET

If you liked *Pleasantville*, don't miss this '50s flashback.
www.broadcast.com/television/shows/ozzieandharriet —R.M.

RANDY NEWMAN: PAMELA SPRINGSTEEN; PRINCE OF EGYPT: DREAMWORKS PICTURES

Take all the
screams
and *chills* of
your favorite
games

and multiply by two.



showcase

Try it on a **Pentium® II**
processor

to life like never before. The Intel® Pentium II processor helps bring huge sound, fast action and 3D realism to today's most cutting-edge games. New titles like Half-Life™ from Sierra Studios are specifically designed to take advantage of the incredible performance of the Pentium II processor. Visit our Web site to find out even more about how the Pentium II processor can make your PC gaming a whole new experience.

See the latest software at: www.intel.com/software

intel®

The Computer Inside.™

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LISTS & STATS

TOP CHATS

The month's best-attended get-togethers at Yahoo! Chat.

CHAT.YAHOO.COM

- 1 John Glenn Live from Space [10/31]
- 2 Jenny McCarthy [10/1]
- 3 Natalie Merchant [10/30]
- 4 Fox NFL Sunday, fan chat [10/25]
- 5 Fox NFL Sunday, fan chat [10/18]
- 6 Take a Chance Star Fest, soap-opera stars [10/17]
- 7 Space-Shuttle Launch, Webcast [10/29]
- 8 Fox NFL Sunday, fan chat [10/5]
- 9 Fox NFL Sunday, fan chat [10/11]
- 10 Reggie Jackson [10/1]

Rankings reflect October chat attendance.

TOP SPORTS EVENTS

The month's most heavily attended events at ESPN.com.

WWW.ESPN.COM

- 1 Cleveland Indians vs. New York Yankees, American League baseball playoffs [10/7]
- 2 San Diego Padres vs. Atlanta Braves, National League playoffs [10/14]
- 3 San Diego Padres vs. Houston Astros, National League playoffs [10/1]
- 4 San Francisco 49ers vs. Indianapolis Colts, NFL football [10/18]



- 5 Cleveland Indians vs. Boston Red Sox, American League playoffs [10/2]
- 6 Green Bay Packers vs. Detroit Lions, NFL [10/15]
- 7 Washington Redskins vs. Minnesota Vikings, NFL [10/18]
- 8 San Francisco 49ers vs. Buffalo Bills, NFL [10/4]
- 9 Minnesota Vikings vs. Detroit Lions, NFL [10/25]
- 10 Minnesota Vikings vs. Green Bay Packers, NFL [10/5]

Rankings reflect October traffic patterns.

WHAT YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR

The search words posting the largest gains in usage this month at MetaCrawler.

WWW.METACRAWLER.COM

- 1 "pumpkin"
- 2 "costumes"
- 3 "laura" [Dr. Schlessinger]
- 4 "netbus" [viruslike "trojan horse"]
- 5 "nhi"
- 6 "pokémon" [Japanese cartoon]
- 7 "revolution" [pro soccer team]
- 8 "christmas"
- 9 "halloween"
- 10 "build" [Duke Nukem level editor]

MetaCrawler searches AltaVista, Excite, Infoseek, Lycos, WebCrawler, and Yahoo! simultaneously. Rankings reflect October data.

T H E S I T E S

WEB TOPPERS

The most popular sites among Web surfers.

WHERE'S THE BUZZ?

The most-visited news/info/entertainment sites.

Media Metrix

SITE	REACH (% OF WEB POP.)	SITE	REACH (% OF WEB POP.)
1 Yahoo!	47.1	1 CNN Interactive	11.6
2 AOL.com	47.0	2 ZDNet	11.2
3 Microsoft	33.9	3 MSNBC.com	10.5
4 Netscape	33.7	4 The Weather Channel	10.3
5 GeoCities	27.8	5 Disney Online	7.5
6 Excite	26.7	6 ESPN.com	7.5
7 Lycos	21.5	7 Pathfinder	6.8
8 Infoseek	18.3	8 USA Today	6.4
9 MSN	16.5	9 DigitalCity	6.4
10 AltaVista	16.1	10 ABCNews.com	6.3
11 Tripod	14.9	11 CBS SportsLine	5.6
12 Angelfire	13.9	12 CNN/SI	5.2
13 Hotmail	13.6	13 CBS.com	5.1
14 CNN Interactive	11.6	14 Sony Online	4.7
15 Switchboard	11.2	15 The Mining Co.	4.7

Media Metrix (www.mediametrix.com), which recently merged with RelevantKnowledge, measures the preferences of 30,000 Net surfers. Rankings reflect September data, the latest available at press time. Apparent ties in the rankings are the result of rounding.

NET USERS

84,800,000

WEB USERS

70,900,000

...the number of Americans who have ventured online, according to a September InternetTrak poll by Ziff-Davis in conjunction with Roper Starch

BOOKS

AMAZON.COM

The top-selling titles this month at Amazon.com.

- 1 *The Vampire Armand*, Rice
- 2 *The Path of Daggers*, Jordan
- 3 *The Seat of the Soul*, Zukav
- 4 *The Breast Cancer Prevention Diet*, Amot
- 5 *What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day*, Cleage
- 6 *The 9 Steps to Financial Freedom*, Orman
- 7 *Bag of Bones*, King
- 8 *The Poisonwood Bible*, Kingsolver
- 9 *Something More: Excavating Your Authentic Self*, Breathnach
- 10 *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*, Wells

Rankings reflect October book sales.

COMPACT DISCS

TOWERRECORDS.COM

The top-selling CD titles at Tower Records online.

- 1 *The Best of 1980-1990 [Limited Edition]*, U2
- 2 *Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie*, Morissette
- 3 *Romanza*, Bocelli
- 4 *Up*, R.E.M.
- 5 *What Am I to You*, Jana
- 6 *Sing or Die*, Dreams Come True
- 7 *Reunion [Limited Edition]*, Black Sabbath
- 8 *A Little South of Sanity*, Aerosmith
- 9 *"Near Me/The Price"* (single), Jana
- 10 *Spirit*, Jewel

List represents the week ending 10/27/98.

TOP PRODUCTS

The top product categories researched at CompareNet.

WWW.COMPARENET.COM

- 1 Television sets
- 2 Cars (sedans)
- 3 Refrigerators
- 4 Camcorders
- 5 DVD players
- 6 Cameras (digital)
- 7 Sport-utility vehicles
- 8 Stereo receivers
- 9 VCRs
- 10 Vacuum cleaners

Rankings reflect shoppers' October queries.



LISTS & STATS

TOP DESTINATIONS

The most popular international destinations this month at City Net.

WWW.CITY.NET

- 1 London
- 2 Paris
- 3 Toronto
- 4 Amsterdam
- 5 Montreal

Rankings reflect October search queries.

TOP RECIPES

The month's most popular recipe requests at StarChefs.

WWW.STARCHIEFS.COM

- 1 Tibetan Noodle Stew, Steve Raichlen
- 2 Hawaiian Vintage Chocolate Pecan Pie, Emeril Lagasse
- 3 Chicken and Coconut Milk Soup, Galangal and Shiitakes, Jean-Georges Vongerichten
- 4 Baked Apples with Cranberries, Daniel Boulud
- 5 Ecuadorian Shrimp Ceviche, Douglas Rodriguez

Rankings reflect October requests.

net poll

FEELING ON EDGE?

Q: Given the shakiness of the world economy, are you concerned about job security?

No 61.3%

Yes 38.6%

Results reflect responses of 23,697 voters at ABCNews.com on October 14, 1998.

THE WEB'S CELEBS

The most-searched celebrities currently on the big screen.

WWW.HOTBOT.COM

- 1 Oprah Winfrey (Beloved)



- 2 Gillian Anderson (The Mighty)
- 3 Sandra Bullock (Practical Magic)
- 4 Jennifer Lopez (Antz)
- 5 Sharon Stone (Antz, The Mighty)
- 6 Cameron Diaz (There's Something About Mary)
- 7 Jennifer Tilly (Bride of Chucky)
- 8 Liv Tyler (Armageddon)
- 9 Nicole Kidman (Practical Magic)
- 10 Reese Witherspoon (Pleasantville)

Rankings reflect October search queries.



TWIST & SHOUT

Sometimes you've just gotta take reality into your own hands. Kai's SuperGOO turns any digital image into liquid right on your own PC. Develop your film onto cd-rom, bring pictures in from the Web, use your scanner or digital camera then twist, stretch, smear and warp them instantly with SuperGOO. You can create animated distortions instantly with the click of a mouse!



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WISH LIST

OUR RESIDENT NET UTOPIAN'S NOT-SO-MODEST PROPOSALS

BY MARK GLASER

[1] RESOLUTIONS.COM Register your New Year's resolutions here, and you'll get reminder e-mails all year to admonish you when you think about breaking them. When (not if) you slip, an instant support group convenes in your living room.

[2] POP-UP-AD POPPER Do the pop-up-ad windows on sites such as those in the GeoCities universe annoy you? Popper instantly kills all pop-ups and sends a virus to the ad's creator that induces pop-up nightmares at 3 a.m.

[3] EDITWARE Filtering the news you read online is a snap. But this subliminal-hypnosis software takes the idea upstream—by editing online-news editors *before they write the stuff*. That means fewer stories on sex scandals, more on local heroes, and the occasional Elvis sighting.

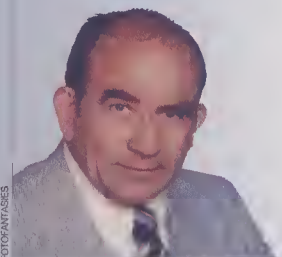
[4] YEAR 2000 BUG ORACLE This digital distant cousin of your local palm reader gauges how messed-up your bank, local utilities, and office will be on Jan. 1, 2000. Messages include "Accounts will total -\$290.45" and "Secure bunker now."

Mark Glaser is a San Francisco-based freelance writer, critic, and frustrated inventor. Send him your own wishes at glaze@sprintmail.com.

search results

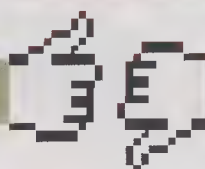
DREW MEETS LOU

Drew Carey. 6,838
Cary Grant. 7,994
Grant Hill. 10,609
Lou Grant. 932



FOTOFANTASIES

y i p p e e !



ya-hooey!

WEB TRAFFIC UNTANGLED

Thanks to some big-time consolidation, the Net's getting much closer to having a single, authoritative list of the most-visited Web sites. Net "old-timer" Media Metrix has subsumed powerful upstart RelevantKnowledge, and Nielsen Media Research itself has announced its collaboration with newcomer NetRatings to create the Web counterpart of its famous TV rankings. Finally these guys are playing together—and it's about time.

SEARCH-ENGINE NIRVANA

If you're like most surfers, the honeymoon you enjoyed with search engines wore off a few days after you first used one. And who could blame you, given all those irrelevant query answers that clutter your screen? Direct Hit's Popularity Engine, a new search technology, ranks Web search results based on their prior popularity with other surfers. The service hopes to park itself on as many Web portals as it can, the first being **HOTBOT** [www.hotbot.com]. Paradise found.



NOW IS THE WINTER OF OUR DISK-ONTENT

America Online's most recent membership drive is dumping millions of CD-ROM sign-up disks per week into mailboxes, onto newsstands, and wherever else the laws of gravity allow. The bright side of this blight: These sturdy disks, since they are larger, make better beverage coasters than their 3.5-inch-floppy predecessors.

SITE GAG

BY MICK STEVENS



"HE DOES THE WHOLE LIGHTNING-BOLT THING ONLINE NOW"

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EXPLORE THE AMAZON FOR 8 BUCKS.

You're quite at home in the trading world. You figure out where you want to go, and then call your broker to execute your trades. He gets a hefty commission, yet you do the majority of the work. That's why it's time to explore another way to trade. It's time to start trading on the internet with Ameritrade. ■ At Ameritrade, internet market orders are just \$8. No matter how many shares of Amazon.com you buy or sell. And limit and stop orders are only \$5 more. ■ All the research tools you need to explore the market are at your fingertips. And Ameritrade is fast, easy, and as safe as can be. ■ Take a tour of our website or give us a call to open an Ameritrade account today. There's a whole new world of trading to explore. And you're going to love it.

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Broker-assisted trades \$18

All systems Year 2000 ready

Limit and stop orders are only \$5 more

Interest paid on cash balances over \$1000



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*Upon opening an Ameritrade account, you will receive 100 free real-time quotes and 100 more real-time quotes for every internet order filled. Member NASD/SIPC. \$2,000 minimum equity required to open your account. SIPC account protection is \$500,000, including \$100,000 cash claims. An additional \$10 million in securities protection is provided. ©1998 Ameritrade. Amazon.com is a registered trademark of Amazon.com, Inc.

COOLTOOLS

Mobilon TriPad, \$999
 Sharp Electronics Corp.
 800-237-4277
www.sharp-usa.com



HINGE BENEFITS MOBILON TRIPAD

The Mobilon TriPad maintains more positions than a Capitol Hill politician. OK, not quite. But this 3.2-pound portable computing device—which runs on the Windows CE operating system—can be arranged as a writing tablet, a presentation easel, or a notebook computer. The flexible Tri-Pad features a 9.4-inch LCD touch screen (with stylus), a nearly full-size QWERTY keyboard, a 33.6Kbps fax/modem, and Microsoft Pocket Internet Explorer software.

Pocket BiteMate 400, \$199.99
 E.W. Bridge • 888-248-3628
www.ewbridge.com



ON YOUR PERMANENT RECORDER POCKET BITEMATE

A clap of thunder. Your child's first spoken words. The *Mr. Belvedere* theme song. Save any sound as a .WAV file with the Pocket BiteMate digital recorder. This slim, handheld doodad can capture up to 125 different sound bites or 50 minutes' worth of audio. It can be used as an ordinary dictation device or as a method of transferring .WAVs to your PC (via a serial port cable) for Web upload.

IN A REAL BIND POWISPRINTER

You've downloaded and printed out a copy of *Anna Karenina*, and simply stapling it together just doesn't seem right. What to do? Flick on the PowisPrinter to produce a custom-designed binding. The device features a built-in keyboard (as well as software for importing Web graphics) so you can title your creations. The printer works in tandem with the Fastback document-finishing system, a separate machine that actually binds pages to your foil-embossed spines.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS ROGERS

PowisPrinter (pictured), \$2,495;
 Fastback Model 11, \$2,495
 Powis Parker Inc. • 800-321-2463
www.powis.com



"Weren't we all
supposed to be
surfing the Internet
at **incredible speeds**
by now ?



"Well, I



How long have YOU been waiting?

If you've been holding out for the cable or telephone company to bring high-speed Internet access to your neighborhood, chances are it's been a while. Which is a shame, because if you'd chosen DirecPC, you could be surfing at up to 400 Kbps **right now**. That's up to 14 times faster than a standard 28.8 modem and almost three times faster than an ISDN line.

It's easy.

How do you get started? Just visit us at www.direcpc.com to find a retailer near you. If you can't find a store in the neighborhood, call us at 1-800-DIRECPC. We'll send you your dish, satellite modem, software and everything else you need. We

HARDWARE
AS LOW AS

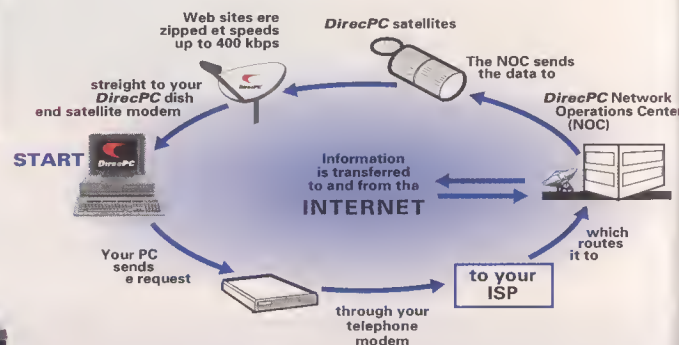
\$199



can arrange professional installation for you, too. Either way, getting started is just a phone call or a mouse click away.

How does it work?

The engineers at Hughes figured out that the real bottleneck in the speed of the Internet wasn't the request **out** to the Web — telephone modems handle that just fine. Everything slows down when the Web tries to use the telephone system to send you **back** the media-rich information you requested. So, we use a much faster satellite connection for sending you the Web content you want. Check out the diagram — this is the system that makes DirecPC the fastest Internet access available nationwide.



sure am."

DirecPC gets pushy.

Sure, you love the idea of surfing the Web at up to 400 Kbps. But what if you could get your favorite Web sites and Usenet Newsgroups delivered straight into your PC by satellite — **automatically**, without even having to tie up your phone line to ask for them? That's just what DirecPC's Turbo WebCast™ and Turbo NewsCast™ services do — so you're never behind on the news and information that's important to you. The best thing about these two services? They're **free** with your paid subscription to any Turbo Internet™ service package.



Want TV with that?

We know what you're thinking: "If I'm going to put a dish on my roof, I might as well sign up for one of those satellite TV services, too." We agree! That's why, for a few dollars more, you can upgrade to our DirecDuo dish with your DirecPC satellite modem. Add a Hughes-brand DSS® receiver (or the DSS receiver you already own), and you get almost 200 channels of crystal-clear satellite TV from DIRECTV® as well as Turbo Internet from DirecPC. Just call 1-800-DIRECPC or stop by www.direcpc.com to find out more.



SERVICE
AS LOW AS

\$19⁹⁹
MO.

The good news.

No other high-speed Internet access provider offers so much for so little. Take a close look at our service pricing — we're sure you'll find a package you like.

You already know how great the Internet is — you're just looking for a way to go faster. DirecPC is the fastest Internet access available nationwide. It's affordable, and it's available everywhere. So, if you're still plugging away with an old-fashioned telephone modem, you need to ask yourself:

What are you waiting for?

Service Plan Details	Residential		Business
Name of Service Plan	Executive Surfer	Family Surfer	Office Surfer
Price of Service Plan (Including ISP)	\$29.99/Month	\$49.99/Month	\$129.99/Month
Price of Service Plan (Without ISP)	\$19.99/Month	\$34.99/Month	\$109.99/Month
Hours of Service (Availability)	24 Hours a Day	24 Hours a Day	24 Hours a Day
On-Line Time (Hours of usage for Turbo Internet)	25 Hours/Month	100 Hours/Month	200 Hours/Month
Additional Hourly Rate (Including ISP)	\$1.99/Hour	\$1.99/Hour	\$1.99/Hour
Additional Hourly Rate (Without ISP)	\$.99/Hour	\$.99/Hour	\$.99/Hour
DirecPC Services			
Turbo WebCast: Broadcast delivery of popular Websites to your PC's hard drive	Included	Included	Included
Turbo NewsCast: Broadcast delivery of up to 30,000 Usenet Newsgroups to your PC's hard drive	Included	Included	Included
Turbo Internet: Fully interactive access to the Internet at speeds up to 400Kbps	Included in Online Time	Included in Online Time	Included in Online Time
Free e-mail Account	1	1	1
Networking (Number of Seats)	N/A	N/A	4

1 (800) DIRECPC
WWW.DIRECPC.COM



\$199 hardware price after DirecPC rebate. New Credit card customers only. Expires 12/31/98. \$100 rebate posted to credit card upon service activation. 12-month commitment to service required. \$100 cancellation fee charged to credit card if service canceled within 12 months. Cannot be combined with other DirecPC promotions. Executive Surfer and Family Surfer packages for single-user systems only and subject to Fair Access Policy and Subscriber Agreement. Speeds may vary. Not available in Alaska or Hawaii; requires line of sight to the southern sky.
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COOLTOOLS



Dazzle Digital Video Creator, \$249
Dazzle Multimedia
510-360-2300
www.dazzle.com



DIGITAL SPLICER DAZZLE DIGITAL VIDEO CREATOR

Plug a VCR, camcorder, or any other video-output source into this gadget, and within minutes you can begin converting footage into MPEG files. (MPEG is the standard digital video-compression format.) The hardware's accompanying Dazzle Software Suite lets you edit these film clips on your computer, record them back onto tape, or fire them off as e-mail attachments. The software can also generate an HTML file incorporating your video, ready for instant home-page upload.

WebRacer, \$59.99
Kensington Technology Group
800-280-8318
www.kensington.com



POWER STEERING WEBRACER

The sporty-looking WebRacer was designed with the information superhighway in mind. This hybrid mouse/keyboard connects to your PC via a serial cable, and lets you surf to sites using a touch pad and six preset keys (which execute such commands as *back*, *forward*, and *reload*). It also features programmable buttons that can be set to launch your e-mail client or your favorite Web pages. The only speed bump: WebRacer's virtual-keyboard software is somewhat hard to use.

PROJECTED FUTURE SHOWSTATION IP



ShowStation IP, \$12,999
Polycom Inc. • 800-765-9266
www.polycom.com

An AV-club fantasy machine? Perhaps. The ShowStation IP is a souped-up overhead projector that lets remote users link up over ordinary phone lines to collaborate on paper- and digital-based presentations. Instead of transparencies and messy markers, it comes equipped with an electronic pen that can write, draw, and erase images and text on an LCD tablet. The unit also ships with a 3.5-inch floppy disk drive and an XGA-resolution color camera (for scanning documents).

DESIGN INNOVATION #38:

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THE ADDITIVE
CRYSTAL
STRUCTURE
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HAVE TO.**



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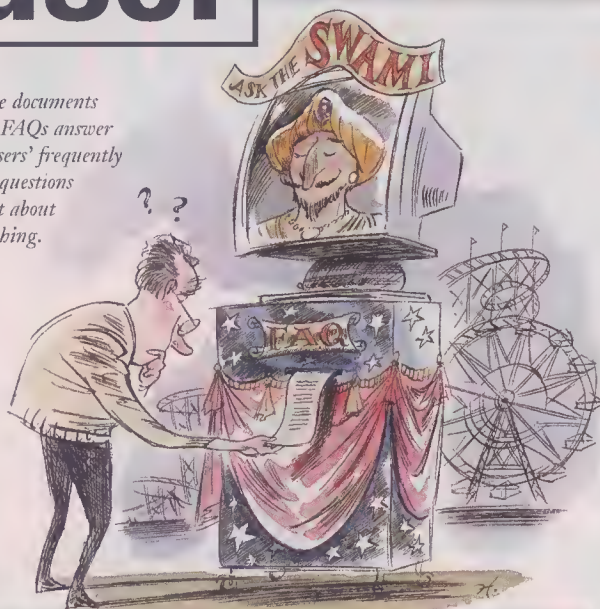


Simple Answers for Smart People

HOW TO GET THE MOST NET IN THE LEAST TIME

Online documents called FAQs answer Net users' frequently asked questions on just about everything.

GARY HOWLAND



FIND IT ONLINE

Just the FAQs, Ma'am

A FAQ (the abbreviation stands for "frequently asked questions") is a document—found at Web sites, in newsgroups, and on mailing lists—that contains the most common queries and answers asked and given about a single topic of interest. For instance, there are expansive FAQs devoted solely to hedgehogs, waffles, computer hardware and software, and Esperanto. The point is, whatever your interest, there's likely to be an accompanying FAQ.

FAQs are great information resources, but they're often difficult to find online. That's why a few kind souls have created online utilities

for locating them. Computer experts from DePaul University and the University of Chicago, for example, have developed the **FAQFinder** [infolab.cs.uchicago.edu/faqfinder], a search tool that locates keywords in pertinent FAQ files. Type a word or question into the site's query field, click on "Find Answer," and let the FAQ-Finder do the rest.

Another group of dedicated users, the **Internet FAQ Consortium**, has gone to great lengths to compile a comprehensive list of Usenet and Web-based FAQs [www.faqs.org/faqs]. Its site isn't pretty, but like the FAQFinder, it gets the job done.



The *Friends* Web site offers television fans a "must-see" FAQ.

For the life of me, I can't seem to locate the URL in my Navigator "History" files or in the "Location" URL menu. Help!

DEAR SURF GURU

Automatic Redial Relief; Web Sites from Header to Footer

Trying to log on, I sometimes get a busy signal. It's annoying to have to keep redialing. How can I have my modem redial automatically?

Double-click on your "My Computer" desktop icon. Then double-click on the "Dial-Up Networking" folder. Select "Connections" from the "File" menu, and then choose "Settings." Click the "Redial" field so that it's checked. Use the Up and Down arrows next to the heading "Before giving up retry" to select the number of redial attempts you'd like your computer to make when it receives a busy signal.

My Web printouts used to indicate a site's address, but they don't any longer. What happened?

You may have accidentally altered your browser's header or footer settings. To instruct your browser to include an address, a window title, and time and date information on Web page printouts, do the following: In Netscape Navigator 3.0 and 4.0, click on the "File" menu heading and choose "Page Setup."

This will launch the "Page Setup" dialog box. Check any or all of the categories (such as "Document Location" and "Page Number") under the "Header" and "Footer" sections. Finish by clicking "OK." In Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 and 4.0, also click on the "File" menu heading and choose "Page Setup." This will launch a "Page Setup" dialog box. Inside the "Header" and "Footer" fields, enter any or all of the following header and footer codes: &u (printout will include a site's address); &w (printout will include a site's window title); &t (printout will include the printout time); &p (printout will include page numbers).

NET LINGO

Cybercad

A person who dawdles in chat rooms and surfs the Net all day long.

Net Lingo courtesy of www.netlingo.com

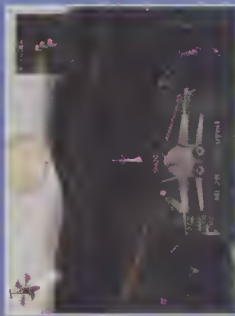
I just visited a site with great photography, but I forgot to bookmark it. For the life of me, I can't seem to locate the URL in my Navigator "History" files or in the "Location" URL menu. Help!

In either Navigator 3.0 or 4.0, type "about:image-cache" in the "Location" field. Hit Enter. This neat trick will pop up a list of links to images currently sitting in your browser's cache.

INSTANT GRATIFICATION!



Kick the tires, light the fires and go! You're Maverick, defending your country and your honor in TOP GUN: HORNET'S NEST, the action-packed, pulse-pounding air-combat game. Dogfight, bomb and maneuver your way through 30 blistering, white-knuckle missions in extreme 3-D environments. Don't waste time learning commands - waste enemies! You're Maverick. Go get 'em, hotshot!



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BROWSER BEAT

Social Web Surfing

Why surf the Web all by your lonesome? A free, Java-based service called **Co-navigator** [www.conavigator.com] from HipBONE Software lets remote users explore the Internet together. Wherever one surfer goes, his or her co-navigators follow in hot-link pursuit.

Go shopping with Mom online.

Search through Web apartment listings with a potential roommate. Or meet up with other surfers in the HipBONE chat room and begin a spontaneous Net excursion.

It's easy to get started: Just register for a free membership ID at the service's home page and then invite someone to co-navigate the Web with you. (In a nod to convenience and privacy, HipBONE doesn't require that invitees register with the service; they can join your surfing clique simply by logging on to the Co-navigator Web site as a guest.)

Be careful whom you invite on your Web outing, though. If your co-navigators are click-happy, the surfing session may degenerate into a hyperlinked "tug-of-war."

Co-navigation requires cooperation on the part of all participants. For this reason, the service offers a chat feature (which can be

launched by clicking on the Chat button in the upper left-hand corner of the HipBONE browser window).

It's also worth noting that during your Web surfing session, most



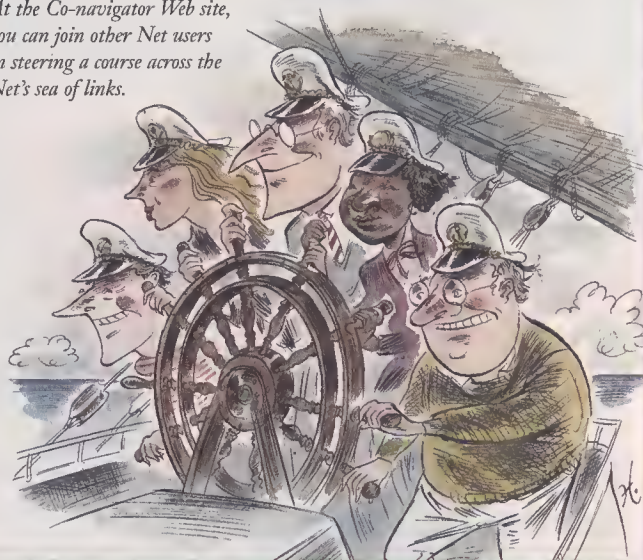
The Co-navigator service lets remote users surf in sync.

files—including audio and video—are simultaneously heard and viewed by all users. If you click on a RealPlayer link at the **CDnow** Web site [www.cdnow.com], the RealPlayer program will launch (or attempt to launch) on every co-navigator's computer, too.

And be forewarned: Sensitive info (such as a credit card number) entered into Web-based forms is visible to your fellow surfers. Shop online only with co-navigators you trust.

Currently, the service is available to Windows 95, Windows 98, and Windows NT users running version 4.0 or higher of Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer.

At the Co-navigator Web site, you can join other Net users in steering a course across the Net's sea of links.



NET REFRESHER

Lightning-Quick Navigation

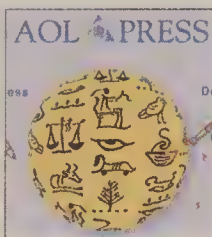
Zip around a Web site by using these three navigation quick tips.

- 1 To jump to the top of a Web page, hit Ctrl + Home at the same time. To jump to the end of a Web page, hit Ctrl + End at the same time.
- 2 To move from one hot link to another on a single Web page, hit the Tab button.
- 3 If you're looking for a specific bit of info on a seemingly endless Web page, use the helpful "Find" function. It lets you search a page by keyword. In Netscape Navigator 3.0 and 4.0 and Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 and 4.0, click the "Edit" menu. Choose "Find" (Navigator 3.0), "Find in Page" (Navigator 4.0), or "Find (on this page)" (Internet Explorer 3.0 and 4.0). A dialog box will pop up. Enter the word or words you'd like to search for in the "Find" query field, and click the Find Next button. Alternatively, hit Ctrl + F at the same time to pop up the "Find" query field (in any of the browsers).

SECRETS OF THE SERVICE PROVIDERS

America Online

Construct your own home page using AOLpress 2.0 Web publishing software (Keyword: *AOLpress*). Frames, image maps, tables—you can create them all with point-and-click ease. You've got 2 megabytes of free space, so get a move on, Web surfer.



CompuServe

If you haven't already, it may be time to upgrade to CompuServe 4.0 [www.compuserve.com]. The new software sports a slicker interface (with 20 content-channel buttons, à la AOL), and has integrated Internet Explorer for Web surfing. Other much appreciated service enhancements: one-click connections, improved plug-in support, a drop-down list of recently visited locations, and customizable tool bars.

How do I make my personal computer
really personal?



Compaq Presario® 5600-450



COMPAQ



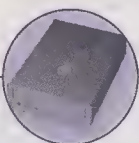
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Speed up performance by choosing from 64 MB to a whopping 384 MB of Synchronous DRAM.



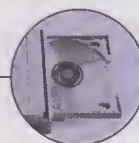
Hard Drive Size

Whether you're writing the great American novel or just surfing the Net, we've got the hard drive size that's right for you.



Processor Speed

You can choose from the latest Intel® Pentium® II Processors, including the new 450 MHz.



CD-ROM/DVD

A built-in Zip drive, CD-ROM, or DVD drive is the perfect way to accessorize and get the most from your Presario PC.



Monitor/Display

All our monitors assure that your applications will be displayed boldly and vividly.



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COMPAQ

Here are just a few of the hundreds of possible combinations:



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\$2,599
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- Intel® Pentium® II Processor, 450 MHz
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- 128 MB SyncDRAM expandable to 384 MB
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- Digital Creativity Imaging Center w/1394
- Diamond Viper 550 w/16 MB SDRAM
- 10 Mbps Ethernet port, Cable Modem Ready
- JBL Pro Premium Speakers w/Subwoofer
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- Microsoft® Featured Home Collection
- Microsoft Windows®9B
- Compaq V910 19" Monitor (18.0" VIA)

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- Intel Pentium II Processor, 450 MHz
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- 128 MB SyncDRAM expandable to 384 MB
- 56K ITU v.90 Modem²
- 2X AGP Graphics w/8 MB SGRAM
- 10 Mbps Ethernet port, Cable Modem Ready
- New! Iomega Zip Built-In™ Drive
- Microsoft Featured Home Collection
- Microsoft Windows9B
- Compaq V720 17" Monitor (15.9" VIA)
- JBL Pro Speakers

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- Diamond Viper 550 w/16 MB SDRAM: Add \$50
- Compaq V910 19" Monitor (18.0" VIA): Add \$170



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- 10 Mbps Ethernet port, Cable Modem Ready
- New! Iomega Zip Built-In™ Drive
- Microsoft Featured Home Collection
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- JBL Pro Speakers

Personalize it by choosing:

- 12B MB SyncDRAM: Add \$100
- Digital Creativity Imaging Center: Add \$49

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- Intel Pentium II Processor, 450 MHz
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- 56K ITU v.90 Modem²
- Digital Creativity Imaging Center w/1394
- Diamond Viper 550 w/16 MB SDRAM
- 10 Mbps Ethernet port, Cable Modem Ready
- JBL Pro Premium Speakers w/Subwoofer
- New! Iomega Zip Built-In™ Drive
- Microsoft Office 97 SBE v.2.0
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- 32X Max CD-RDM Drive⁴
- 64 MB SyncDRAM expandable to 384 MB
- 56K ITU v.90 Modem²
- 2X AGP Graphics w/8 MB SGRAM
- 10 Mbps Ethernet port, Cable Modem Ready
- New! Iomega Zip Built-In™ Drive
- Microsoft Office 97 SBE v.2.0
- Microsoft Windows9B
- Compaq V910 19" Monitor (18.0" VIA)
- JBL Pro Speakers

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- 1.5 Mbps U-ADSL/56K v.90 Digital Modem:³ Add \$49
- 12B MB SyncDRAM: Add \$100
- Presario FP500 Flat Panel Monitor: Add \$430

Compaq Presario 5600-400

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Base price includes:

- Intel Pentium II Processor, 400 MHz
- 10.0 GB UltraDMA Hard Drive¹
- 5X DVD-RDM Drive⁵
- 64 MB SyncDRAM expandable to 384 MB
- 56K ITU v.90 Modem²
- 2X AGP Graphics w/8 MB SGRAM
- 10 Mbps Ethernet port, Cable Modem Ready
- New! Iomega Zip Built-In™ Drive
- Microsoft Featured Home Collection
- Microsoft Windows9B
- Compaq V720 17" Monitor (15.9" VIA)
- JBL Pro Speakers

Personalize it by choosing:

- 13.5 GB Hard Drive:¹ Add \$50
- Diamond Viper 550 w/16 MB SDRAM: Add \$50

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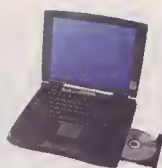


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Circuit City, CompUSA,
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Computer Town, Conn's,
DataVision, Fred Meyer,
Fry's Electronics,
Future Shop,
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h.h. Gregg, Insight,
J&R Computer World,
Micro Center,
MicroWarehouse,
Multiple Zones,
Nationwide Computers & Electronics,
Nebraska Mega Mart,
Nobody Beats the Wiz,
Office Depot, OfficeMax,
PC Connection, PC Mall,
PC Richard & Son,
PC Warehouse,
RadioShack,
RCS Computer Experience,
Sears, Staples,
Sun TV & Appliances, Inc.,
Tiger Direct,
Tops Appliance City,
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Compaq Presario 1800-266

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\$2,399

Base price includes:

- Intel® Pentium® II Processor, 266 MHz
- 12.1" TFT Active Matrix Display
- 64 MB SyncDRAM expandable to 160 MB
- 4.0 GB UltraDMA Hard Drive¹
- 24X Max CD-ROM Drive²
- 56K ITU v.90 Modem²
- Smart Lilon Battery
- 512 KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache
- 256-bit Accelerated Graphics w/2.5 MB VRAM
- Microsoft® Office 97 Small Business Edition
- Microsoft Windows®9B

Personalize it by choosing:

- 96 MB SyncDRAM: Add \$100
- 6.4 GB Hard Drive¹: Add \$200
- Brief Carrying Case: Add \$119



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- 64 MB SyncDRAM expandable to 160 MB
- 4.0 GB UltraDMA Hard Drive¹
- 24X Max CD-RDM Drive²
- 56K ITU v.90 Modem²
- Smart Lilon Battery
- 512 KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache
- 256-bit Accelerated Graphics w/2.5 MB VRAM
- Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition
- Microsoft Windows9B

Personalize it by choosing:

- 96 MB SyncDRAM: Add \$100
- 6.4 GB Hard Drive¹: Add \$200
- 2nd-Generation DVD-RDM Drive³: Add \$200



Compaq Presario 1800-300

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- Intel Pentium II Processor, 300 MHz
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- 96 MB SyncDRAM expandable to 160 MB
- 6.4 GB UltraDMA Hard Drive¹
- 2nd-Generation DVD-RDM Drive³
- 56K ITU v.90 Modem²
- Smart Lilon Battery
- 512 KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache
- 256-bit Accelerated Graphics w/2.5 MB VRAM
- Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition
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- The standard in 100 MB portable storage
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- Reliable backup of your important stuff
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- Plus: Buy a Zip 10-pak for only \$99 — so everyone in the family can store their own stuff

Compaq IJ 200

\$129⁹⁹

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- Up to 600 x 600 DPI resolution
- Sharp text and sharp color prints
- Print Speeds:
Up to 3 1/2 pages per minute black
Up to 1 1/2 pages per minute color
- Paper tray holds up to 30 sheets



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¹The 5X DVD-RDM Drive transfer rate is up to 6,750 KB/s compared to 1,352 KB/s for 1X DVD-RDM Drives. ²2nd-Generation DVD-RDM Drives run at a higher maximum transfer rate of up to 2.76 MB/s compared to 1st Generation DVD-RDM Drives which run at a maximum transfer rate of up to 1.348 MB/s. ³One year parts and labor. Labor for desktop systems is carry-in service with on-site service during the first 90 days of ownership. Labor for notebook systems is pick-up service. ⁴U-ADSL updates may be downloaded from Compaq's Website when available. The 1.5 Mbps U-ADSL/56K v.90 modem protocol is designed to allow faster downloads from U-ADSL, K56flex, or v.90 compliant digital sources. Availability of U-ADSL services will vary by region and Internet Service Provider (ISP), and may differ from v.90 ISP services. Maximum achievable download transmission rates with U-ADSL and K56flex/v.90 are currently unknown, may not reach 1.5 Mbps or 56 Kbps respectively, and will vary based on service provider, line conditions, and distance. Compaq is not liable for pictorial or typographical errors in this advertisement. Compaq, the Compaq Logo, and Presario registered in U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Microsoft, MSN, and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Intel, the Intel Inside Logo, and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. Product and company names mentioned herein may be trademarks and/or registered trademarks of other companies. **Call Compaq Monday-Friday 7:00am-11:00pm (CST), Saturday and Sunday 7:00am-7:00pm (CST).** ©1998 Compaq Computer Corporation. All rights reserved.

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FIVE E-Z PIECES

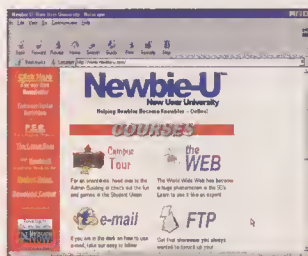
Search Tips;
Backup Zips

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Newbie-U

www.newbie-u.com

Web 101 for Net freshmen.



Download

Norton Zip Rescue

www.iomega.com

In the event that your operating system becomes corrupted and requires reinstallation, Zip Rescue recovers your personal Windows 95 or Windows 98 settings.

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Receive the Web's best search strategies from veteran surfers. Send an e-mail to *I-Search@list.mmgco.com* with *subscribe* in the body of the message.

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www.getright.com

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Newsgroup

alt.comp.freeware

Discussion of and advice about the coolest, most useful freeware programs available on the Net.

E-Mail Power Features

Making the Most of Netscape Messenger
and Microsoft Outlook Express

1 CHECK YOUR SPELLING

Messenger

With your e-mail message open, click on the Spelling button on the tool bar. To add a word to the spelling dictionary, click the Edit Dictionary button.

Outlook Express

With your e-mail message open, go to the "Tools" menu and choose "Spelling." To add a word to the spelling dictionary, click the Add button.

2 SEARCH MESSAGES

Messenger

Looking for a message e-mailed to you some months ago? Click the "Edit" menu, and choose "Search Messages." Click the More button if you'd like to enter multiple search criteria, such as date, sender, and subject. Click the Search button.

Outlook Express

Click the "Edit" menu, and choose "Find Message." Enter as many search criteria as you'd like, and finish by clicking the Find Now button.

3 SEND A WEB PAGE VIA E-MAIL

Messenger

In Netscape Navigator, right-click anywhere on a Web page, and select "Send Page."

Outlook Express

In Microsoft Internet Explorer, go to the Web page to be sent. Click the Mail button on the browser tool bar, and choose "Send Page."

4 SET UP DISTRIBUTION LISTS

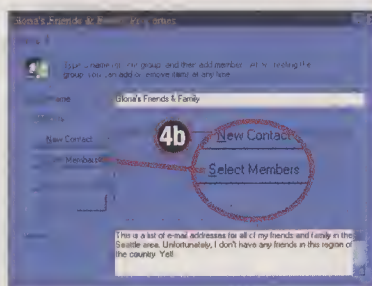
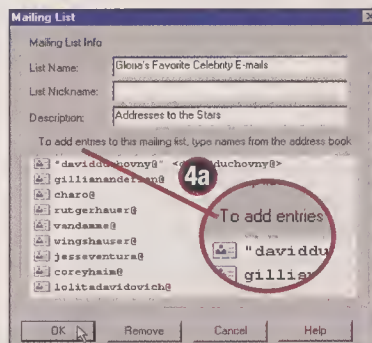
Send an e-mail message to everyone in your family, on your soccer team, or in your Kurosawa fan club with just a click.

Messenger

Click the "Communicator" menu, and choose "Address Book." Click the New List button in the tool bar, and then type in a title for your new distribution list in the "List Name" entry field. [4a] Type in names from your Address Book in the "To add entries..." entry field.

Outlook Express

Click the tool bar's Address Book button, and then click the New Group button. Type in a title for your distribution list in the "Group" entry field. [4b] To add names from your Address Book to the distribution list, click the Select Members button. To add new names to the list, just click the New Contact button.

5 MANAGE MULTIPLE
E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Configure Messenger and Outlook Express to retrieve e-mail for multiple home and business accounts. To do this, you'll first have to obtain the mail-server data for each of your accounts. Contact your Internet service provider to get this info.

Messenger

Exit Navigator. Open the "User Profile Manager" (from the Start menu in Windows 95, go to "Programs/Netscape/Communicator/Utilities/User Profile Manager"). Click the New button, and follow the steps for adding a new user.

Outlook Express

From the "Outlook Express" window, click "Tools," and then choose "Accounts." Click the Add button, select "Mail," and then follow the steps for adding a new e-mail account.

—Gloria Mitchell



shopper

SMART BUYS FOR BUSY PEOPLE

PICKS OF THE MONTH BY JACLYN EASTON

1



Fabulous Fakers

The dubious arts of painted and faux finishes may finally transcend their oft-tacky reputation in design circles, thanks to the Finished Touch. This collection of hand-painted items and home accessories ranges from small picture frames to painstakingly detailed chairs, tables, and furniture such as the "Leather" Mission Table (pictured above at left, \$500) and the Cheval Mirror (above right, \$600).

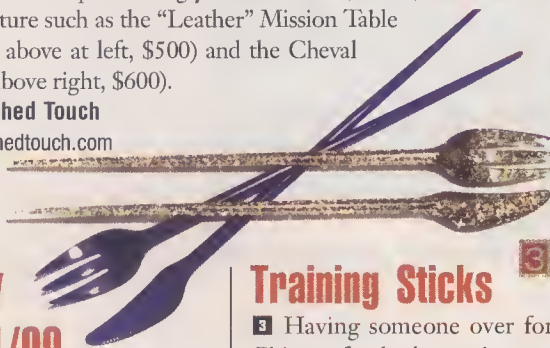
The Finished Touch
www.finishedtouch.com



Happy 01/01/00

Whether you're planning to spend New Year's Eve 1999 reveling in Paris or squirreled away in the hills of Idaho, this digital clock (\$24.95) counts the hours, minutes, and seconds left before that big odometer on the dashboard of civilization turns over.

**Millennium 2000
 Countdown Clock**
www.year2000.com/y2kproducts.html



Training Sticks

Having someone over for Chinese food who can't get a grip on the chopsticks? Hand over these hybrid East-West creations and let your guest decide for himself which end he'll use. An assortment of 14 colors (\$3.95 per pair) lets you color coordinate your utensils with everything from standard dumplings to squid-ink pasta.

Forkchops
www.forkchops.com

Steer Clear of Icebergs

If you think only ship captains fear icebergs, think again. True gourmands will shriek in horror when faced with a bowlful of iceberg lettuce. Avoid dinner-party outbursts with Diamond Organics's gourmet assortment of organic greens and other pesticide-free produce. A pound of its cut-to-order mesclun greens starts at \$7.50, delivery charges not included.

Diamond Organics
www.diamondorganics.com



ASK THE MAVEN

Q. Online bargains are a great find, but is there anything online I can use to find sales in my own backyard?

A. Sign up for the e-mail alert service on **The Sales Channel** [www.thesaleschannel.com] to get regular notifications of when your favorite stores (think Gap and Ann Taylor) are offering bargains. Likewise, **SampleSale** [www.samplesale.com] can also keep you in the loop as to which major retailers in your area are hawking deals.

FOUND AT AUCTION

Would you pay \$4,400 to mix and mingle with some Klingons? That's what one lucky bidder recently doled out at **Universal Studios' Online Auction** [www.universalstudios.com] for a nonspeaking bit part on TV's *Deep Space Nine*. At prices like that, you may want to consider other, less financially strapping ways to achieve your allotted 15 minutes of fame.

I CAN BUY WHAT ON THE NET?

When choosing a housewarming gift for the mansion-dweller in your life, consider this suitably larger-than-life chess set (\$9,950). Its game pieces vary in height from 33 inches to 43 inches, and each weighs about 12 pounds. Bet you never thought of chess as a lawn sport.

Check Mate
www.chekmate.com



VIA RODEO

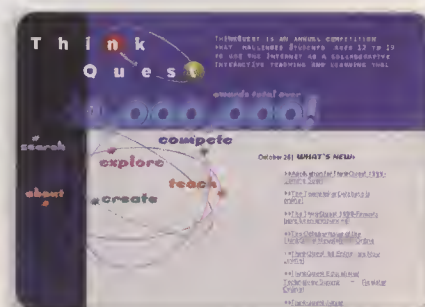
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TOUCHED BY THE NET

BY MATT RICHEL



The graphics are outstanding, the information is thoroughly researched, the technological underpinnings are worthy of a high-priced digital design firm, and the combined traffic they receive has at times reached 2 million hits a day.

All of these efforts are the work of participants in ThinkQuest, an annual competition whose goal is to inspire students to build truly awesome Web sites with an educational orientation. And the rewards for winning aren't merely high visibility and the right to boast on a college application. In 1998 alone, ThinkQuest gave away \$1.5 million to an array of ambitious entrants, including \$25,000 in scholarship money to each of the Best of Contest prizewinners.

Both ThinkQuest (for those 12 to 19 years old) and ThinkQuest Junior (for kids in grades four to six) are the brainchildren of Al Weis and his Advanced Network & Services, a nonprofit organization that has also been a force in the development of the Internet backbone. Weis got it into his head several years ago to create some outstanding educational content on the Web, and he figured he should start with the people at whom it's generally aimed—namely, students.

"If I hired a publishing company to build good content, I'd most probably get a textbook on the Web," says Weis. "But if I could harness the creativity of kids, I thought, 'Gee, we'd have something.'"

As it turned out, that "something" was even more than he'd imagined. Take the **INVESTSMART** site, a real-time stock-market simulation created by a trio of eleventh-graders—and now used widely as a learning tool in schools. A site called **FROM THE GROUND UP: A GUIDE TO C++**, created by another high-schooler, is used as a computer-program-

Precocious About the Web

A SITE-BUILDING COMPETITION INSPIRES YOUNG PARTICIPANTS TO RAISE THEIR SIGHTS AS WELL

THINKQUEST www.thinkquest.org

It's too bad about those pesky child-labor laws. Without them, the builders of the **MISSION TO MARS** site might be pulling down \$50 an hour. The creators and keepers of a Web site focusing on SeaWorld's **J.J. THE GRAY WHALE** might be negotiating for stock options, while the members of the team behind the **WOMEN IN ALASKA'S HISTORY** page could be in line for their first corner office.

For now, though, most of these Web wizards aren't even in line for a driver's license. You see, they and the architects of numerous similarly impressive sites range in age from about 8 to 19 years old—though you certainly couldn't guess their youth from the evidence online.

New SurgeStation™: The Most Advanced Features Ever Designed By Our Customers

"I want to plug a telephone line and a modem dataline into the same surge protector."

"I want to plug in transformer blocks and keep all outlets open."

"I need more outlets for peripherals."

"I need some outlets that are always on."

Order Today!

The Challenge

Surge suppression is vital to the health of your electronic equipment. The SurgeStation™, APC's latest offering, accepts the challenge issued by APC customers to incorporate several "dream features" while maintaining the key elements and high-performance that make SurgeArrest® one of the best selling surge suppressors in the world.

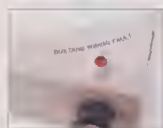
Not all surge protectors are alike

Life presents many risks, most people seek out the best insurance to reduce the threat of these risks, so why would you trust the protection of your PC to some outlet strip? APC is the world leader in power protection; we provide you with premium, reliable surge protection, and the peace of mind that comes from knowing you have the best protection.

All the Features You Wanted

SurgeStation products now include: Eight outlets – three spaced to handle transformer blocks easily, a new building wiring-fault indicator, a right-angle plug to maximize your work space, and a switch large enough to be pressed on with your foot, but recessed enough to prevent accidental turn-off.

Whether you need basic protection, or the best protection money can buy, APC has a SurgeStation to meet your needs. Each SurgeStation model offers the best protection from lightning strikes and everyday power surges that can cause hardware damage and data loss. Every model carries a lifetime equipment protection policy; if connected equipment is ever damaged by a surge or lightning strike, APC will replace up to \$25,000* worth of that equipment. With power prob-



Building/Site Wiring Fault Indicator

SurgeStation is equipped with a Building/Site Wiring Fault LED that identifies dangerous wiring problems before you plug in your equipment.



Protection Working Indicator

A Protection Working LED warns you if SurgeStation circuitry is ever damaged. APC will then replace the damaged SurgeStation for free under its lifetime warranty.*



Right-angle Plug

SurgeStation's space-saving plug design allows the cord to be flat against the wall.



8 Outlet Floor Models

Eight outlets on SurgeStation floor models provide ample space for equipment plugs with transformer blocks.

lems virtually guaranteed to damage unprotected electronics, you won't find a better protection value.

For Home Office/Small Office Applications

The SurgeStation series offers premium protection for small business/home office computers, high-performance stereo and video equipment, laser printers, and modems.

So join the over 8,000,000 satisfied computer users who say "ProtectME!" with APC.

Lifetime Equipment Protection Policy
With the Lifetime Equipment Protection policy, your equipment connected to SurgeStation is protected. (*See policy for details.)



SurgeArrest and SurgeStation

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Telephone & AC Protection
2 Telephone & AC Protection
Cable/Telephone & AC Protection



APC products are available at:

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MICRO CENTER

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Office DEPOT Inc.

PC Connection
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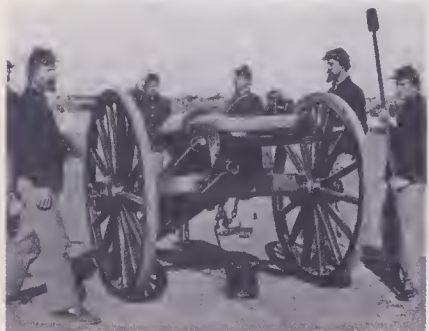
ming tutorial at the college level. The food-focused **YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT** has been listed among the Diet & Nutrition Recommended Sites on Netscape's Netcenter portal. In all, more than 1,500 sites have been built since 1996.

Though they vary greatly in subject matter, there is some common ground among the winning sites: The judging criteria heavily favor teams whose members come from different geographic and socioeconomic groups. The three creators of *You Are What You Eat*, for example, hail from high schools in Virginia, Alaska, and Russia.

Weis says he encourages such diversity because he doesn't want ThinkQuest to be in the position of merely doling out checks to prep-school kids with access to high-powered Unix servers. "If all three team members are from the Bronx High School of Science," he notes, "they can't even get into the finals today."

Note: Links to all of the sites mentioned above, as well as to other ThinkQuest entries, can be located through [www.thinkquest.org/library].

SMALL TOUCHES



THE CIVIL WAR AS MUSE

www.erols.com/kfraser

On July 3, 1863, the survivors of Gen. George Pickett's ill-fated charge at the Battle of Gettysburg beat a hasty retreat. Amid the tumult, many of the troops recalled hearing the Confederate band playing "Nearer, My God, to Thee" as they fled to safety. Though one of the most gut-wrenching eras in U.S. history, the Civil War inspired some impassioned and patriotic music and poetry. Now, thanks to Kathie Fraser, those works are available on the Web. Her award-winning site offers samples of verse and song written by soldiers, civilians, and politicians on both sides. "If you want to un-

derstand the thoughts and emotions of the men who faced each other across the battlefield, and of those who waited for them at home," Fraser writes, "look to the poems and songs written during and after the war."



CENSORED SONGS

ericnuzum.com/banned

In 1964, Indiana's governor asked state broadcasters to ban the Kingsmen song "Louie, Louie," branding its lyrics as sexually suggestive (not that anyone has ever been able to decipher them). The Kingsmen are hardly alone. In their day, both "Satisfaction" by the Rolling Stones and Olivia Newton-John's "Physical" were deemed objectionable. Even the Beatles at one point provoked the wrath of religious conservatives. Eric Nuzum details these and other episodes on *A Brief History of Banned Music*, which looks at individual instances of censorship and also at the motivations of the censors and musicians. "The history of music censorship is very telling about our culture," says Nuzum, who created the site as part of a First Amendment law class and now has a book on the subject in the works.

A REAL IMPORTANT CAUSE

www.demiurge.org/adverb

Save the forests! Save the environment! Save time and money! Yes, we've heard all those before. But Alexander Garrett has undertaken a truly unheralded task: saving the adverb. Seriously. "Friends, there is a grave injustice sweeping America," Garrett warns. "The adverb is becoming an endangered species. It is slipping from everyday discourse." With tongue only partly in cheek, he cites numerous examples of the adverb's ebb, such as Apple's "Think Different" ads. He also lightly lashes Elvis for singing "Love Me Tender," when "Love Me Tenderly"

would give the adverb its due. "Many people," Garrett writes, "are leaving home and conducting their daily business without their *lys*." So what's his plan? He heartily invites visitors to spread the word by displaying his "Thanks, I'm *well*! Save the adverb" logo.

REUNITING ADOPTEES AND BIRTH PARENTS

www.highfiber.com/~rema

If you were adopted and have grown curious about your biological roots, Ellen Leninger could well save you lots of time and money. She has assembled a vast collection of resources and links that can help adoptees locate their birth parents. The site includes information on relevant state laws, government agencies, and databases, as well as tips on finding a private detective. Leninger, who has two adopted daughters (one of whom has been reunited with her birth mother), also examines the emotional aspects of the decision to reunite birth parents, children, and adoptive parents—the three elements of what she calls "the adoption triad." "My hope," she says, "is that [the site] will be a vehicle for all members of the triad to gain understanding of each other, and that it will help them find each other."



TO ZOO OR NOT TO ZOO

www.richmond.edu/~ed344/98/zoos

Is the average zoo a haven for animals, or is it merely a prison? Or does the truth lie somewhere in between? The *Prisoners or Protected?* site explores this debate from a range of perspectives. For example, there is an interview with a representative of *People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals* and with a zoologist at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. After encouraging role playing (in the form of siding with the various advocates), the site assigns each visitor the "mission" of seeking to forge a solution that makes all sides happy.

Y

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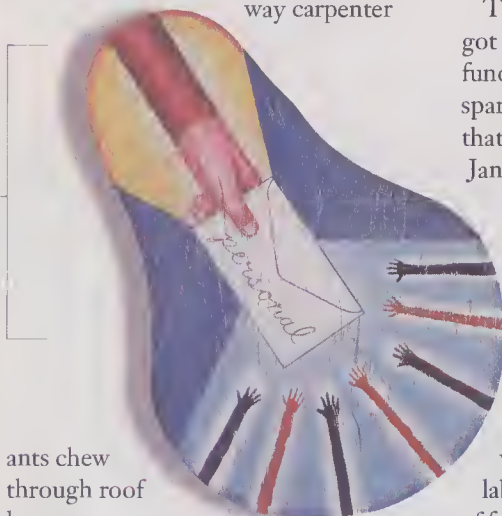


Don't Run That Past Me Again

THANKS FOR ALL THOSE "FORWARDS," FRIENDS, BUT BACK OFF!

Here is an e-mail message from someone who thinks "the president should receive censure from the Congress and we should all move on. And the independent counsel investigation should end." Those aren't the sender's words, but they are contained in the message he forwarded to everyone in his e-mail directory.

If the gods are willing, by the time you read this the independent counsel will be grading papers at Pepperdine. Or maybe not. What I *am* certain of, however, is that the petition will still be circulating around the Internet, gobbling up bandwidth the way carpenter



ants chew through roof beams.

I did some counting and measuring on this e-mail. It ran to 17 kilobytes. The petition took up only 168 words; the rest was devoted to listing the hundreds of people to whom it had been forwarded. Not all, of course, were from this sender's address book. Also included were the addresses of everyone the message had *ever* been sent to.

Arno Jaffe of Paradiso Sorbet, I know what your e-mail address is. Blaise Noto of Paramount—hi, Blaise! It was fun

seeing you at the Toronto film festival. Donna Sapolin of *Vegetarian Times*, love your magazine. Hello to Fran Kessler of *Esquire*; my old friend Guy Flatley; Marcus Hu; Stanley and Janet Tiger; and Mark Pogachefsky. Your e-mail addresses are all right here for the world to see. And as for you, Mr. Blackwell: How can anyone take your Worst-Dressed List seriously when I'm not on it?

Who's this? Stanley Kubrick! What an honor to be on the same list. You may be the movie world's most famous recluse, but your e-mail address is here, too, for anyone who wants to look down the list for it. That'll make your day.

These e-mails never die. Yesterday I got a petition to Congress asking that funding for National Public Radio be spared. It quotes a *USA Today* article that appeared "this morning" in January 1995. The petition still circulates, like the ancient mariner, with signatures instead of albatrosses around its neck.

I got dozens of copies of that Kenneth Starr statement in which he allegedly went on *60 Minutes* to warn about smut on the Net. I still receive them, along with copies of another message, labeling the first one a hoax. I thought of forwarding the second message to everyone who sent me the first, but that seemed too much like going all the way.

When John Glenn rocketed into space, I got an e-mail saying: "Pssst—when Glenn comes back, everybody be wearing ape suits! Pass it on!" I smiled. I was not smiling after receiving more than 30 forwards of the same message. Rule of thumb: After you have personally received a message three times, it doesn't need to be forwarded anymore.

That would apply to the Top Ten


Reasons Blondes Don't Use Windows. And the man in Indonesia who wants everyone to send him a dollar. And the offer from "Bill Gates," who is testing a new e-mail system and will send \$1,000 to everyone who gets his message. The guy in Indonesia ought to write to him.

I have three questions for those who so tirelessly forward all of this spam: [1] Do you believe it, or are you simply acting as an agent of forces greater than yourself?

[2] Have you ever thought of stripping the earlier addresses and just sending the message? ("My software cannot do that," replied one person to whom I optimistically suggested this strategy.) [3] Do you know your e-mail software has a blind-copy option called "Bcc:" that, when clicked, means that everybody can't see everybody else's address?

Most professionals value their Rolodexes as dearly as their lives. If these people ever caught someone photocopying their addresses, how would they feel? And yet each time they forward another inane petition to everyone in their address book, they are essentially casting the secrets of their e-mail Rolodex to the winds.

I'm getting to hate this stuff that piles up in my in-box. I'm thinking of countermeasures. Why not send a message to everyone on the forwarding list, informing each person that (name of perpetrator) has carelessly shared his or her e-mail address with the entire world?

I'm going to start with Stanley Kubrick. I'll warn him that someone is spreading his e-mail address around. Hey, at the very least, I might get an e-mail from Kubrick himself! If I do, I may possibly forward it to just a few of my intimate friends. You know who you are. Or you will before long. 



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For Bigots, All the Web's a Soapbox

BUT THEIR RISING PROFILE SPURS HEIGHTENED VIGILANCE

When 21-year-old Matthew Shepard was beaten, tied to a fence, and left for dead last October by two men in Laramie, Wyoming, the expression of grief and outrage on the Net was universal.

Well, almost universal. The Westboro Baptist Church, which sponsors the **GOD HATES FAGS** Web site [www.godhatesfags.com], announced that members would travel from its headquarters in Kansas to picket the funeral of the gay University of Wyoming student. Though it was too late to save Shepard, the site explained, the church would show the world that "His Parents & Fags are to Blame."

GHF is just one of an estimated 800 sites preaching intolerance on the Net. "And they're growing stronger," warns Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the **SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER** [www.wiesenthal.com], a Los Angeles-based organization that tracks the activities of hate groups. With these gangs metastasizing so rapidly online—their numbers *tripled* in 1997, says Rabbi Cooper—80 percent of the Wiesenthal Center's research manpower is now allocated to keeping an eye on high-tech bigots.

One of the main targets of the center's scrutiny is **STORMFRONT** [www.stormfront.org], run by Don Black, a former Ku Klux Klansman who says he has spent nearly 30 years of his life working to establish "a separate white nation." Also under close watch are **ARYAN NATIONS** [www.nidlink.com/~aryanvic] and **NATIONAL ALLIANCE** [www.natvan.com]. The latter is the brainchild of Dr. William L. Pierce, author of *The Turner Diaries*, the fictional story of a coming race war that could have been Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh's inspiration.

Of course, both off- and online, the critics of such outlandish goals and

repellent views are equally visible and vocal. It's not as if we're living amid the secrecy and denial of wartime—right?

"That's exactly what it is: a war," Rabbi Cooper counters. Rick Eaton, the Wiesenthal Center's senior researcher, elaborates: "In 1992, representatives from various groups—neo-Nazis, Christian Identity [a white-supremacy movement], tax protesters, etc.—met to find common ground after government agents, looking to arrest survivalist Randy Weaver on gunrunning charges, shot and killed his wife and son. These fragmented groups now became focused."

Joe Roy echoes Eaton's analysis. A former homicide and robbery detective, Roy now serves as intelligence director of the **SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER** [www.splcenter.org], a legal- and educational-services organization in Montgomery, Alabama, that also monitors hate sites online. Roy argues that these various fringe groups, spurred by the fate of Weaver in Idaho and of David Koresh in Waco, Texas, have converged around the belief that the government is a ruthless killing machine run by Jews, blacks, and homosexuals. What's more, he notes, hate groups are increasingly using the Net to propagate their ideas: "The Web is their tool of choice. It lets people who would never put on a hood participate in this hatred."

On this point, at least, Stormfront's Black agrees. "With the Net," he boasts, "I can provide my information to millions."

Among those millions, certainly, are plenty of children. Using popular culture and music—the most effective means of getting into someone's head since trepanning—such sites as **RESISTANCE RECORDS** [www.resistance.com] offer a

smorgasbord of *Sieg Heil*-ing singers, such as Bound for Glory and Berserkr, whose members denigrate the Holocaust in "Swindler's Wish":

*Your people profit most
Keeping the "Holy Hoax"
Alive to feed to the sheep
You stretch and twist the truth
And those that question you
Are automatically "evil"...*

So what can you do? If you encounter the work of hate groups online, you can report it to the Wiesenthal Center's **CYBERWATCH HOTLINE** [www.wiesenthal.com/watch/whotline.html]. You can also



educate yourself. At the Southern Poverty Law

Center's site, you can

keep abreast of these groups by reading the quarterly Intelligence Report, or check out a list of Ten Ways to Fight Hate. To locate other civil-rights organizations or review each state's hate-crime laws (or the lack thereof), visit **HATEWATCH** [www.hatewatch.org].

Will any of this help? In the words of Logan Pearsall Smith, quoted atop the HateWatch home page: "How it infuriates a bigot, when he is forced to drag out his dark convictions."



TWO OUT OF THREE NEW BUSINESSES ARE STARTED IN THE HOME...AND HOME WORKERS ALREADY NUMBER MORE THAN 15 MILLION. Source: Fast Company, January 1998, www.fastcompany.com



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ON THE
BY THE EDITORS

Yahoo! Internet Life's third annual Top o' the Net survey presents the most remarkable sites, services, trends, news stories, obsessions, and the wondrous strange people we've encountered online in 1998

The Tippity-Top

THE ROADS MOST TRAVELED

TOP SITES '98 ① Yahoo! ② Netscape
③ AOL.com

TOP NEWS SITES ① CNN.com
② MSNBC.com ③ *USA Today*

TOP ENTERTAINMENT SITES
① Disney ② Sony ③ Internet Movie Database

TOP BUSINESS/FINANCE ① CNNfn
② Quicken.com ③ *The Wall Street Journal*

TOP COMPUTER INFO SITES
① ZDNet ② CNET

TOP SPORTS SITES ① ESPN.com
② CBS SportsLine ③ CNN/SI

TOP GAME SITES ① GameSpot
② CNET Gamecenter.com ③ The Zone

TOP MUSIC SITES
① CDnow/Music Boulevard ② Columbia House
③ MTV Online

TOP BOOK SITES ① Amazon.com
② Barnesandnoble.com

TOP TRAVEL SITES ① City.Net
② Travelocity ③ Microsoft Expedia Travel

TOP AUTO SITES ① *Kelley Blue Book*
② *Edmund's* ③ Microsoft CarPoint

TOP NEWSGROUPS*
① microsoft.public ② alt.sex ③ rec.arts

RANKINGS BY MEDIA METRIX/RELEVANTKNOWLEDGE (EXCEPT WHERE NOTED), USING AGGREGATED RELEVANTKNOWLEDGE CHARTS. *SOURCE: DEJA NEWS

Top Net Event

CLINTON/LEWINSKY SCANDAL



Top Online Person

HERO/VILLAIN MATT DRUDGE



DAVID STRICK/COUTLINE

>> For good or ill, it was the fedora-wearing cyberscribe whose Monica Lewinsky scoops thrust the Internet into the U.S. mainstream this year—though some (among them, the Clintons) called it sludge. Love him or hate him, Drudge kept the rest of the media nipping at his heels, playing catch-up to his many accurate newsbreaks (Lewinsky, the dress, the cigar), and yipping at him for his misfires (the Blumenthal wife-beating rap). Beyond sparking the scandal, he *used* the Net cannily—his plain, popular, links-rich site is a model of form and function—and his effect on politics and journalism in 1998 drove home the message that the Net fundamentally changes the rules of the information game. Anyone can play.

Top Net Day

SEPTEMBER 11

>> The stock-market plunge came close, but it was the Starr report release that won the traffic trophy for 1998. News outlets CNN.com, MSNBC.com, and ABCNews.com all reported record-breaking traffic on this freaky Friday.

Top Net Minute

OCTOBER 29

>> Though the Starr report stole the freak show in 1998, it was John Glenn's long-planned return engagement in the heavens that had us clicking furiously. CNN.com recorded an unprecedented 494,000 hits per minute during its Webcast of the historic shuttle launch.



NASA

Top Trends

NET EFFECTS

>> PORTALMANIA:

Though AOL continued to surge, Web traffic converged on a few wildly growing hub sites (portals). The piling-on reached fever pitch in 1998, as the Web watched the formation of its first true networks. Most imitated: David Filo and Jerry Yang's portal pacesetter, Yahoo!



MICHAEL BUCKTON

>> COMMUNITIES:

From Web rings to Web clubs to megacities in cyberspace, the original thrust of the Net gained new force—people of like interests gathering to talk, work, and dish.

>> E-COMMERCE:

Shopping and doing business on the Net was still the proverbial drop in the bucket, but everyone began to line up the buckets in 1998. Never mind cool. The thought was, "How can we make a buck(et) online?"



>> White House Follies: Clinton, Lewinsky, Starr, Tripp, and Drudge

>> It was sleazy, it was sad, it was a political earthquake. But above all, it was a hell of a show. And it was an Internet show all the way, from the first breaks, to the Tripp-Lewinsky e-mails, to the hyperlinked Starr report online. Though it spawned a nonstop gabfest on TV, online the effect was multiplied a millionfold: the news, the jokes, the posts, the parodies, the criticism. And don't forget that on the Net, the show stays open—and runs forever.

faces ON THE net

YOU WANT CELEBRITIES? LOOK NO FURTHER THAN YOUR KEYBOARD. HOLLYWOOD HAS FINALLY OVERCOME ITS NET-PHOBIA

98

Top Chats

...IN THE NET'S HOTTEST "ROOMS"



MCOUTLINE/HANSON/OPRY

YAHOO! CHAT

JULY 21

>> Teen pop-rockers Isaac, Taylor, and Zachary Hanson broke the portal's all-time chat record.



STAN GODEWSKI/GAMMA LIAISON

TALK CITY

JULY 19

>> Talk-show (and AOL) queen Rosie O'Donnell held a chat soiree with fans during the site's Emmy coverage.



DAVID HUME KENNEDY/STYOGMA

AMERICA ONLINE

SEPTEMBER 21-22

>> Political pundit and Slate editor Michael Kinsley led the Clinton Tapes: Listen and React discussion.



OUTLINE

TVGEN

JUNE 8

>> Pop singer Jewel let her hair down and spent some time with fans in *TV Guide's* online chat den.



BETTMANN/FOX

MSNBC.COM (with MSN)

JUNE 11

>> David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson were "out there" looking for truth on the eve of the movie premiere of *The X-Files*.



ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT ONLINE

OCTOBER 2

>> The site brought chatty fans close to the action at the Miss Hawaiian Tropic competition in Oahu, Hawaii.

Top Searches: Male & Female

LEONARDO DICAPRIO

PAMELA ANDERSON



ALASTAIR THAIN/PIGMA/RIK



>> Kurt Vonnegut once said that high school epitomized the core of American culture. Carrying that secondary-school analogy online, consider Pamela Anderson to be Net Senior High's bad girl who seldom has a date, but certainly gets the boys' attention. We asked the search-engine sites (including AltaVista, Excite, HotBot, Infoseek, and Yahoo!), and they told us: It was Pam who topped the list of women's names typed most into query windows. But she was hardly the only celebrity whom surfers stalked endlessly online. The ubiquitous Leonardo DiCaprio beat out close second Bill Clinton on the lists of guys' names queried most at the same search hangouts. Given that Yahoo! lists 122 homegrown Web sites dedicated to Leo's image, that's not too much of a surprise.

Most Downloaded Woman

CINDY MARGOLIS



ANDY PERLMAN

>> The former "Cindy who?" returns to our pages this year after inspiring 590,000 photo downloads in 1998. Since 1996, when she made her debut in the celebrity photo gallery of Warner Bros.'s *Extra* Online, Margolis has vanquished by a wide margin the likes of vampire-slaying Sarah Michelle Gellar and *Lois and Clark* alumna Teri Hatcher. "In the Golden Age of Hollywood, stars were discovered at Schwab's Drug Store, but this is one who was discovered on the Internet," says Jim Moloshok, president of Warner Bros. Online. Here's to Cindy—and to Teri who?



Most Downloaded Man

LEONARDO DICAPRIO

>> Leo may be able to shake the paparazzi on occasion, but he's powerless against the mouse-clicks of adoring fans at the celebrity gallery on AOL maintained by Warner Bros.'s *Extra* Online. The site's DiCaprio photo collection attracted 1.3 million downloads in 1998—about four times as many captures as fellow Hollywood heartthrob Brad Pitt had last year from the same site. "We've never seen anything like this when it comes to downloads," says a Warner Bros. executive.



Queen of the Internet

YEAR 3: BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Y-LIFE: *How surprised are you at being America's Most Downloaded Woman of the Year for the third time?*

CINDY MARGOLIS: I could say I was very surprised, but that doesn't even begin to cover it. This has been such an amazing year for the Internet. I feel so lucky to be a part of it, and I'm grateful to *Extra* Online and all my wonderful cyberbuddies. Thank you!

Y-LIFE: *What's the secret to your continued success?*

MARGOLIS: My cyberbuddies! It's not just about updating my site and having new images all the time to download. It's really about taking the time to get to know [my buddies], just like real friends do—and being able to have a place on the Net to swap stories and learn about each others' friends and families. At my Web site I can talk to everybody at the same time, through e-mails and live chats. It's great!

Y-LIFE: *And what of your recent marriage? Are your buddies feeling left at the altar?*

MARGOLIS: No, I hope not! My fans were at the altar with me, at least in spirit. But I did worry that I would hurt some feelings by getting married so quietly and without fanfare.

Y-LIFE: *Where have you been hanging out online these days?*

MARGOLIS: At CindyMargolis.com... of course! There are just too many sites to name. I love to surf. What free time I do get, I spend answering my mail and improving my site.

Y-LIFE: *Rumor has it we're going to be seeing you again on the big screen.*

MARGOLIS: Yes. I just got the script for *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me*. There aren't any Fembots in this sequel, so I'm playing a cool Viking chick. Yeah, baybeeeeee!

MARGOLIS (IN BOOTS): ANDRE FELIX; DICAPRIO (SITTING): GASTON SPICAMMA; LARSON

top OF THE charts

RANKING THE INTERNET'S TOP DRAWS IN MUSIC, MOVIES, TV, GAMES, SPORTS, TRAVEL, AND SOFTWARE



ILLUSTRATION BY TIM GARDNER

Woodstock's Pete Townshend, Joan Osborne, and Ziggy Marley

Top Concerts

MOST ATTENDED (MULTIPLE PERFORMERS)

A DAY IN THE GARDEN: AUGUST 14 >> Perhaps it was the remote support of all those Woodstock veterans who were not quite up for the...er...trip to Bethel, New York, that made this hippie-inspired rockfest the year's best-attended concert Webcast.

SOURCE: BROADCAST.COM

MOST ATTENDED (SINGLE PERFORMER)

ROD STEWART: SEPTEMBER 30 >> He was asking, "Do ya think I'm sexy?" back when Leonardo DiCaprio was watching *Sesame Street*. Stewart's Charlotte, North Carolina, gig was the most downloaded show of the year.

SOURCE: BROADCAST.COM

Top Overall Audio Event

CLINTON GRAND-JURY TESTIMONY

SEPTEMBER 21 >> Though the Web's news hubs broke ground by running President Bill Clinton's grand-jury testimony video in its entirety, the fact that most surfers log in at a video-unfriendly speed of 28.8Kbps made the CNN.com-supplied audio version a more reasonable choice.

SOURCE: BROADCAST.COM

Top Games

MOST DOWNLOADED DEMO

DEER HUNTER >> Killing aliens, soldiers, and rednecks suddenly seemed passé once offing our antlered friends became an option.

SOURCE: GAMESPOT

MOST PLAYED ONLINE

NASCAR RACING 2 >> With auto racing's shift into high gear as an online event, it was no surprise that this simulation cashed in big.

SOURCE: TOTAL ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK



DEER HUNTER



NASCAR RACING 2

Top TV Show

STAR TREK (ALL VERSIONS)

>> The *Seinfeld* finale may have been the year's sentimental favorite, but everyone knows the Net is a huge Trekker haunt.

SOURCE: TVGEN

Top Movie

TITANIC

>> Death and destruction ruled the box office and the browser in '98. Net surfers chose the doomed cruise ship over carnage on the World War II front lines (*Saving Private Ryan*) or a date with an asteroid (*Armageddon*).

SOURCE: INTERNET MOVIE DATABASE

Top Video Sold

(ONCE AGAIN) TITANIC

>> Film buffs may bristle, but the waterlogged blockbuster topped even the 50th-anniversary rerelease of *Gone with the Wind* in video sales.

SOURCE: REEL



KATE WINSLET (LEFT), LEONARDO DICAPRIO

PACHA/CORBIS

Top Jocks

MICHAEL JORDAN

ANNA KOURNIKOVA

» This year, baseball's grand slams earned more attention than basketball's slam dunks, but Michael Jordan still soared to the top of our list for the second year in a row, edging out home-run hitter Mark McGwire. And as for the ladies, tennis star Anna Kournikova polished her Net game, earning the hearts of more online fans than did runner-up Martina Hingis.

SOURCE: HOTBOT

JORDAN (TOP), KOURNIKOVA



JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT



SIMON BRUTY

Top Downloads

OVERALL TITLE

WINZIP 7.0 » When the attachments got big, this shareware program got going. SOURCE: HOTFILES.COM

SCREEN SAVER

ANIMATED 3-D OBJECTS »

Yes, this ever-changing image gallery nudged out a swimsuit collection for top download honors.

SOURCE: HOTFILES.COM

Top Sporting Event

NCAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

MARCH » As the premier excuse for a party, the Super Bowl is always a TV record breaker. But online, college basketball was a top draw.

SOURCE: ESPN.COM

Top Destinations

NATIONAL

LAS VEGAS » Why, oh, why? Maybe it was the free-drinks-as-you-gamble policy—or the \$3.49 breakfast buffets.

SOURCE: CITY.NET

INTERNATIONAL

PARIS » *Oui, oui.* There's still hope for the collective taste of Net travelers.

SOURCE: CITY.NET

◀ BACK

ONLINE STOCK PURCHASES

REFUSING TO ACCEPT COOKIES

WWW.NEWS

PROTECTING KIOS FROM ONLINE SMUT

FAKE NUOE CELEBRITIES

IMPERSONAL CARE AT YOUR HMO

URLs ON THE SIDES OF BUSES

WEB SITES THAT TRY TO LOOK LIKE TV SHOWS

FAN HDAMAGE PAGES

ILLCIT JPEGs

MICROPAYMENTS

Y2K

ZAPATA AS A FISH-OIL COMPANY

TEENAGE VIRGINCAM

SHOOT-'EM-UP GAMES

"SHOCKEO" ANIMATIONS

BANNER AOS

PERSONALIZATION (ME, MINE)

INFOTAINMENT

FORWARD ▶

ONLINE LOAN APPLICATIONS

REFUSING TO FILL OUT MARKETING SURVEYS

WWW.TABLOID

PROTECTING KIOS FROM ONLINE COMMERCIALISM

NAKEO MOLE-RAT COLONYCAM

IMPERSONAL CARE AT YOUR MEDICAL SITE

200-MHz BUSES

TV SHOWS THAT TRY TO LOOK LIKE WEB SITES

CEASE-ANO-OESIST LETTERS

ILLEGAL .MP3s

SHIPPING ANO HANDLING

TEOTWAWKI
(The End of the World as We Know It)

ZAPATA AS...A FISH-OIL COMPANY

GRANO-JURY TESTICAM

HEARTS, POKER, RUMMY

TEXT, TEXT, TEXT
(Till Daddy gives us high speed)

SPAM PROMISING FREQUENT-FLIER MILES

COMMUNITIES (US, OURS)

ENTERTAILING

Year in Rhyme

TOP SITE

Yahoo!, as gauged by traffic

TOP SIGHT

Surfers viewed streaming video of the first online birth at [www.ahn.com]

TOP FIGHT

Microsoft vs. Department of Justice

TOP BLIGHTS

"Teenage virgins" hoaxed the Web, hackers defaced *The New York Times's* site, pedophiles tried to network

TOP SLIGHT

Zapata offered to buy Excite, the portal just laughed in response

TOP FRIGHTS PARANOIA INDEX



⦿ (PRETTY SCARY)

Oops! That wasn't the Off button on the Webcam

The Department of Justice would like to speak to you about your browser

Your significant other wants to lose his or her virginity online...and he or she goes ahead without you

You can't name your local congressman, but you do know more than a dozen AOL chat-room moderators

The leading portals list your site under "Pages That Suck"

E-mail's down—you may have to talk to people again!

Your favorite online CD store can predict your next purchase—and it's *Barry Manilow Live!*

⦿⦿⦿⦿ (ORWELL WAS RIGHT!)

TOP CITES: thanks, contributors: BRUCE FEIRSTEIN, MARK GLASER, DAVID KUSHNER, ED WEINER, and staffers: RON BEL BRUNO, ROB BERNSTEIN, MICHAEL FREIDSON, BEN GREENMAN, JOHN HOUSE, GLORIA MITCHELL

...and now for the

rest OF THE year

ALL YEAR LONG, WE CLIPPED AND SAVED LIKE SQUIRRELS. TRUST US: IT WAS NUTS >> BY ED WEINER, THE Y-LIFE STAFF, AND ASSORTED PALS



DANCING BABY ILLUSTRATION: JEFFREY OH; LUCAS: WILLIAM MERCER/MOLEDO/OUTLINE

They Shoot Dancing Babies, Don't They?

The Net-spawned Dancing Baby debuted on *Ally McBeal* in early January. The world was never the same again—especially since both Ally and the baby made us ill from overexposure.

Well, It's a Better Title Than "404 Not Found"

George Lucas, who announced the release date of the *Star Wars* prequel exclusively online, also revealed the film's (alleged) title on the Web. As a moniker, *The Phantom Menace* got a mostly unfavorable response from online Jedis, who had previously batted around the Web rumor that more than 40 percent of *Phantom* had been filmed out of focus. Everyone from *Entertainment Weekly* to Ain't It Cool News's Harry Knowles zoomed in on the bad data, which was later light-sabered by Lucasfilm.



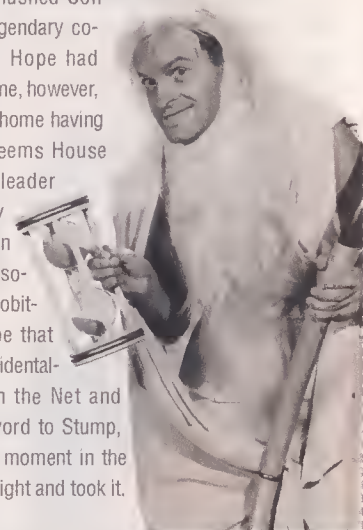
Y A K K E T Y - Y A K !

"I can't tell you why, but women seem to take the time to learn how to use the Internet. Guys use the hunt-and-kill principle. If they can't do everything after the first three or four tries, they quit. My female students, especially older women, stick with it until they get it right." ■ THOMAS BELL ■

computer instructor at Texas Wesleyan University

The Pierre Salinger News-Flash Award Goes to...

Stating "We will all miss him very much," U.S. House Veterans Committee Chairman Bob Stump (R-Arizona) informed a hushed Congress that legendary comedian Bob Hope had died. At the time, however, Hope was at home having breakfast. Seems House Republican leader Dick Armey (Texas) saw an erroneous Associated Press obituary for Hope that had been accidentally posted on the Net and passed the word to Stump, who saw his moment in the C-SPAN spotlight and took it.



HOPE: EVERETT COLLECTION

Also, Tonya Harding Was Spotted in the Marvista Parking Lot

Former Olympic skater Nancy Kerrigan sued and won a five-figure settlement from an Internet company that posted a faked nude photo of her. Kerrigan claimed the picture, posted by Marvista Computing Co., caused her emotional distress.

Who's the Bust?



In other fake-nude news, actress Alyssa Milano, formerly of *Melrose Place* and currently of *Charmed*, sued three porn sites for posting altered nude photos of her. And who's the chief pursuer of randy photo villains? Cybertrackers, a business that hunts down celebrity images on the Net and is run by Alyssa's mother, Lin Milano.

MILANO: CHALLENGE RODDIE/OUTLINE

TIME LINE '98

JANUARY

» Prodigy, the first consumer on-liner as we know it, fires staffers and gets out of the content business, becoming instead a straight Internet service provider (ISP).



» The first cracks in the President Clinton-Monica Lewinsky scandal send users racing to the Internet for news and opinions; in one day MSNBC has 830,000 visitors to its site, compared with its usual count of approximately 500,000.

» In the continuing browser wars—which will culminate later in the year with a landmark trial—Microsoft ups the ante against Netscape by announcing it will distribute Internet Explorer for free. Months later, Netscape will stop charging as well.



FEBRUARY

» Curling wasn't the only noteworthy addition to the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan: On the Internet, fans could immerse themselves in 3-D representations of the city and download instant replays of the events. They could also go online and complain about CBS's coverage of the Games—and many did.

Spam Stories

CHRONICLING THE ADVENTURES OF JUNK E-MAIL

The Spam King Is Dead, but Spam Lives On

Sanford "Spamford" Wallace, the best-known and most widely reviled commercial annoyance on the Internet, announced that his unsolicited e-mail business is out of business. With more than \$2 million in court costs and judgments against him and his spam-processing company, Cyber Promotions Inc., Wallace walked away from the fray. Or so he says. Meanwhile, other mass-mailers rose to take his place as some states debated tougher and tougher no-spam laws.



DON TRACY/GAMMA LIAISON

spam: "irrelevant Internet messages sent to a large number of people." A spokesperson for The Coalition Against Unsolicited Commercial E-mail praised the milestone, but waxed philosophical to MSNBC: "We've felt bad for Hormel Foods that their somewhat strange but legitimate product has been used to describe a thoroughly hated practice." Which brings us full circle to...

Wham, Bam, Thank You, Spam

Hormel Foods, makers of the real processed, canned, and indescribable stuff, launched the first official Spam Web site at [www.spam.com]. The site has clothing and plenty of other Spam-logo'd products for sale—but no Spam!

Is That "Spa-yum" or "Spaaahm"?

In June, the *New Oxford Dictionary* introduced a new definition of the term

STATS
27
HOURS

Amount of time needed to download the 32-volume set of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* using a 28.8Kbps modem

1

SECOND
Amount of time needed to download the 32-volume set of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* using advanced fiber-optic lines

55
PERCENT

Share of computer users who send e-mail more often than they make long-distance phone calls

33
PERCENT

Share of computer users who send e-mail more often than they make local phone calls

Y A K K E T Y - Y A K !

"Women are starting to use the Internet more for the same purpose men have used it for years. It's a nice, fairly anonymous way to see some sexy pictures and talk dirty to strangers without real physical risk—or emotional risk, either, unless you're sort of nuts." ■ CARLA VOIGHT ■ computer-business analyst

It Depends on Your Definition of "Do It"

"Mike" and "Diane," two 18-year-old self-styled virgins who announced they would "do it" for the first time live on the Internet, were revealed to be part of a purported scam to charge viewers \$5 for the show and then not "do it" at all. Or they were part of a venture by an independent filmmaker allegedly attempting to discredit the religious right in some way or trying to raise money for a new movie. Or they were fronts for a giant hoax intended to attract viewers to porn sites. Whatever. They didn't "do it."



This Is Your Brain on AOL

Explaining how users get hooked on the online service, Barry Schuler, president of America Online's Interactive Services, told *The New York Times*: "It starts with e-mail. Then you get them interested in a buddy list so they can find their friends and family." Then, presumably, AOL moves them on to the harder stuff: message forums, news areas, and the addictive-as-crack chat rooms.

TIME-LINE ILLUSTRATIONS: ZACH TRENNHOLM

TIME LINE '98

FEBRUARY CONT'D

» Richard Machado, a former student at the University of California at Irvine, becomes the first person convicted of using the Internet to commit hate crimes—a civil-rights violation—after sending threatening e-mail to Asian students.



» Time Warner makes a splash by debuting the *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue online at the CNN/SI site. The day before the print version hits newsstands, the cover of the best-selling issue is posted on the Web.

» In an effort to become less of an entertainment producer and more of a gateway to the Internet, Microsoft Network announces it's canceling its "shows" to focus on more portal-like, utilitarian services.



MARCH

» The FBI launches a precedent-setting raid on cyberbookies. Six Internet sports gambling operations—including Galaxy Sports and Real Casino—are targeted, marking the first big crackdown on a business that allegedly raked in \$600 million in 1997.

You've Got Nails!

A woman named Amber Appelbaum allegedly called AOL, posing as the wife of Nine Inch Nails singer Trent Reznor. After obtaining Reznor's password over the phone (which AOL later said was impossible), the 22-year-old Georgia woman then logged on as Reznor. The singer, after learning of problems with his AOL account, hired a private investigator, proving that rock stars can do anything they want, even if it makes very little sense.



You've Got Mayo!

To compete with other eateries in New York City's Wall Street district, a Burger King restaurant installed 20 high-speed fractional-T1 Internet connections and offered customers up to 20 minutes of free Web surfing and e-mailing. Customers can have it their way, unless that way includes visiting sex-oriented sites: Filtering software keeps pornography as far away as McDonald's fries.



You've Got Fatwah!

An AOL home page containing parodies of Koranic verses was removed by the company after protests from Muslims. Scholars at al-Azhar University in Cairo also protested the site. Egyptian newspapers, too, were upset. No comment from author Salman Rushdie.

STATS

4.6

MILLION
Number of Net users who have applied for at least one loan online

15

PERCENT
Share of households with an Internet connection that watch less television compared with households that don't have Web access

68,69,69

PERCENT
Share of parents, students, and teachers, respectively, who say they have witnessed students' grades improve because of Net use

3.7

MILLION
Number of Net users who have applied for a credit card online

You've Got Mania!

University of Cincinnati psychiatrist Nathan Shapira found that people who seem to be addicted to the Internet also had five other mental disorders at some point in their lives, and that being too focused on Web doings is probably not a separate disease but an impulse-control disorder similar to kleptomania. Thus, the name he gave the syndrome: Internetomania, or Netomania.

You've Got Breasts!

"This is not a hoax," said the chief technology officer of Florida-based Calypso Productions, in announcing that his company was planning to broadcast a live sex-change operation on the Web in November. The six-hour procedure would change a man into a woman.

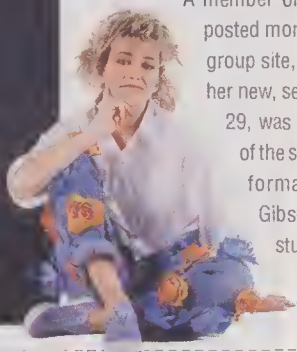
YAKKETY-YAK!

"It would be a real mistake for anyone to think the Internet is done or the World Wide Web is done. We're just at the start of these technologies, and there's a huge amount of research to be done." ■ "FATHER OF THE INTERNET" TIM BERNERS-LEE ■ to the Los Angeles Times



What Would Have Happened if He'd Called Her "Debbie"?

A member of the Deborah Gibson Fan Club posted more than 100 messages at a news-group site, demanding that the singer drop her new, sexy adult image. Michael Falkner, 29, was arrested outside the stage door of the singer's *Beauty and the Beast* performance, after saying online that Gibson should "speak to me on this stuff or I'm probably going to be arrested for trying." He was charged with four counts of harassment.



You Mean He Isn't Dead?

Not as dead as his career, anyway. Back in January, on the day Chris Farley died, there was a rumor on the Internet that Scott Baio had also passed away. "My parents called me, crying," Baio told *The New York Times Magazine*. "They heard it from my brother, who heard it on the radio. And they're crying, and I'm thinking, 'Someone died in my family!' Little did I know it was me."

Y A K K E T Y - Y A K !

"If it had not been for the Net, we would have only seen 20 percent of that report. Newspapers would have never printed all this material—they would have been afraid of shocking people." ■ MEDIA CRITIC JON KATZ ■

on the release of the Starr report

Chat-Room Confessions

TRAGEDIES AVERTED AND CULPRITS COLLARED

Saved from Suicide

After noticing a British woman's suicide note on an online bulletin board, an American computer user alerted British authorities, who saved the woman's life. Authorities found the woman five hours after she had taken pills and alcohol. The man remains unidentified.

Chat-Room Clues

The teenager in the chat room admitted that he fantasized "all the time" about his pedophile tendencies. A day later, Jeremy Strohmeier, 19, molested and strangled a 7-year-old girl in a Las Vegas casino bathroom. Caught on camera, Strohmeier entered a guilty plea after authorities found the chat-

room message. He was sentenced to life in prison.

A Killer Confesses

After allegedly killing his daughter in a fire, a man confessed to the crime in an online support group for problem drinkers. "When she was asleep," the man wrote, "I got wickedly drunk, set our house on fire, went to bed, listened to her scream twice...and set about putting on a show of shock, surprise, and grief to remove culpability from myself." He was arrested soon after, but not before overly sympathetic online chat-ers came to the man's counsel, urging him to seek therapy, put the crime behind him, and move on.

TIME LINE '98

MARCH CONT'D

Users of Excite's Web site are given the chance to vote on who should be the winner of a skating competition being broadcast on CBS, marking the first time Internet users have been able to affect the outcome of a live television event.



JAMIE SQUIRE/ALLESPORT

Snail-mail slinks onto the Web. People in San Francisco and Washington, D.C.—and soon everywhere else—get the OK to download postage from E-Stamp, using special software. It's the first new form of postage since the advent of the postage meter, 78 years earlier.

STATS

38
YEARS

Amount of time it took radio to attract 50 million listeners

13
YEARS

Amount of time it took television to attract 50 million viewers

4
YEARS

Amount of time it took the Internet to attract 50 million users



A teenage hacker in Massachusetts, who not only caused the phones in more than 500 homes to go dead but also knocked out communications in an airport control tower, receives a sentence of two years' probation, a \$5,000 fine, and 250 hours of community service. Oh, and for good measure he has to surrender his computer.

TIME LINE '98

APRIL

>> A federal appeals court in San Francisco rules that it's illegal for anyone to register an Internet address that incorporates a name trademarked by a company, then profit from it by selling the address to the trademark's owner.

>> A federal judge rules that ISPs are not liable for the content they provide, at least in civil suits. The ruling favors AOL, which gets off the hook in a \$30 million defamation suit by White House adviser Sidney Blumenthal against the ubiquitous Matt Drudge.



⌘ The place: Comdex. The scene: conventiongoers awaiting a demonstration of Windows 98 by Bill Gates. The problem: Gates's computer crashes. The outcome: only a bit less embarrassing than getting hit in the face with a cream pie, which happened to Gates back in February.

⌘ The Easter Egg Roll rolls onto the Net. Webcast from the White House, the "EasterLink" includes streaming video of the famous egg hunt, as well as storytelling by Jane Seymour and music by Art Garfunkel.



The President, the Intern

IT ALL BEGAN—AND BLEW UP—ON THE NET: LEWINSKYGATE WAS THE SCANDAL THAT LAUNCHED A BILLION BROWERS



JANUARY 17

>> Matt Drudge reports on his site that *Newsweek* spiked a story about an affair between President Clinton and an intern. Four days later, *Newsweek* finally posts the piece online, but only after *The Washington Post* officially breaks the story, taking its lead from Drudge.

JANUARY 25

>> By now, fake America Online names (InternLove) and fake Monica Lewinsky Web sites (such as the one mistakenly reported as real by *The Detroit News*) are booming—as is the career of Drudge, who appears today on *Meet the Press*.

JANUARY 26

>> *The Dallas Morning News* reports online that a Secret Service agent spotted Clinton and Monica Lewinsky engaging in a sexual act. In its rush to break the news, the paper poorly sources the item, and it later retracts the story.

JANUARY 29

>> *Time* reports its own online exclusive: President Clinton admits under oath to a sexual encounter with Gennifer Flowers.

FEBRUARY 11

>> "We are all going to have to rethink how we deal with [the Internet]," says Hillary Rodham Clinton, speaking to the press about the reports online. "Without any kind of editing or gatekeeping function, what does it mean to have the right to defend your reputation?"

MARCH 12

>> Appoint.net, an online scheduling service, pulls a controversial banner ad that features President Clinton and reads, in three successive frames: "Ruling the free world"... "and dating interns"... "takes a highly organized schedule."

JUNE 2

>> Drudge, billed as "controversial Internet gossip," addresses a National Press Club luncheon. "Applause for Matt Drudge in Washington, at the Press Club—now, *there's* a scandal!" jokes the columnist when he is met with a polite ovation.

AUGUST 17

>> President Clinton's four-minute confession of an affair with Monica Lewinsky sends record numbers of surfers to Web news sites. CNN.com hits an all-time high of 20.4 million page impressions; the previous record

had been 15.5 million in April, inspired by severe weather throughout the U.S.

AUGUST 18

>> E-zine Feed asks the question, What if Clinton's grand-jury grilling had happened in a chat room, and Koko the gorilla had been lurking? Excerpts: Starrman: "did you at any time have sxlrltns with ms lewinsky?" Prez179: "I never brok the laws in this country," Koko: "nipple orange."

AUGUST 20

>> A Web site launched by the Committee for the Preservation of Our Moral Fabric urges surfers to send their soiled dresses to Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's office. "We must all give this investigation the help it deserves," the site says.

SEPTEMBER 11

>> The Starr report is released online, posted at a government Web site and mirrored at news sites around the world. Anyone with a Web browser has instant access to the searchable and unfiltered documents. On this day and the next, more than 6 million visitors hit the report and/or Clinton's online rebuttal, according to RelevantKnowledge (now a part of Media Metrix). The news sites' traffic jumps a collective 95 percent.

& the Internet



Starr-struck Sites (clockwise from top left): PJ's Comix; Tasteless Clinton/Monica Lewinsky Jokes; Suck.com; Mad Dog Productions

SEPTEMBER 15

» Republican partisan Arianna Huffington launches a site called *Resignation.com*, which asks visitors to petition for Clinton to stand down. Also featured: a resignation-speechwriting contest.

SEPTEMBER 16

» The online zine *Salon* reports that U.S. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry Hyde (R-Illinois) had an adulterous affair in the 1960s. *Salon* takes heat for the story; its Washington, D.C., editor is forced to resign; and congressmen vow to investigate *Salon*.

SEPTEMBER 21

» Clinton's videotaped grand-jury testimony is Webcast, causing broadcast sites' traffic and users' demands on bandwidth to explode. Soon after, NetFlix, an online DVD outlet, sells Clinton's video testimony for just 2 cents a copy to "encourage public education regarding these history-making events."

SEPTEMBER 23

» In a letter that makes the e-mail rounds, *Hustler* publisher Larry Flynt offers Kenneth Starr a job as an adviser on pornography. "I am impressed by the salacious and voy-

euristic nature of your work," writes Flynt.

SEPTEMBER 24

» Linda Tripp is forced to remove the guest book from her Web page, [www.lindatripp.com], because of insulting message postings. Tripp writes on the site that she has to deal with the "price I've been made to pay for daring to disclose the truth."

OCTOBER 6

» Because of the Starr report, U.S. companies lost \$470 million in productivity, claims NetPartners Internet Solutions. Measuring traffic in the first two weeks after the report's release, the firm estimates that 13.5 million employees wasted an hour of work time apiece.

NOVEMBER 3

» Democrats win big on Election Day, and Clinton goes online to surf the results. Newt Gingrich soon decides to log off.

NOVEMBER 12

» The planned public release of the Tripp-Lewinsky tapes is announced. Digital sound seems destined to reach new heights of popularity as the chubby ladies sing.

It's a Dumb World After All

By fall, many had received the e-mail from "Walt Disney, Jr.," or had read about it in the papers. "Hello Disney fans," it began, "and thank you for signing up for Bill Gates' Beta and E-mail Tracking.... Forward this to everyone you know.... [I]f it reaches 13,000 people, 1,300 of the people on the list will receive \$5,000." Other prizes included a trip for two to Disney World. We're still waiting for our dough.

YAKKETY-YAK!

"The Internet is to school research in the '90s what the calculator was to math in the '70s."

■ DAN SCHULMAN ■
president, AT&T WorldNet

No More Floppy Drives



Men too embarrassed to go to a doctor for a prescription for Viagra found a welcome outlet: Web sites and e-mail addresses selling the pharmaceutical illegally. One deflating problem: Some of the pills were fakes.

AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

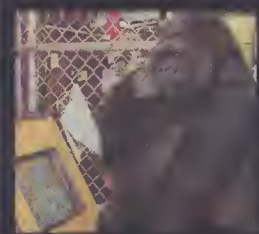
Too Late! Saddam's Downloaded It!

Saying its Web site offered "too much detail on...capabilities... personnel, and operation procedures," the Department of Defense pulled previously posted information off its site to deter spies.

TIME LINE '98

APRIL CONT'D

» The first interspecies chat takes place, with Koko the gorilla answering questions from America Online customers. Though she is said to understand some 2,000 words of English via sign language, the 26-year-old Koko seems uninterested in the chat, signing incoherently and, at one point, asking for "food and smokes."



THE CORNELL FOUNDATION

MAY

» Russian President Boris Yeltsin—like Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and British Prime Minister Tony Blair before him—participates in his first online chat, on MSNBC.com. He answers questions about his health, his hair, and even the politics of Russia.

» *Saturday Night Live* becomes the first NBC show to be offered on WebTV. While watching the show, users of the set-top system can access information about the program's host and musical guest, and play games based on *SNL* characters.

» Vice

President Al Gore proposes an "Electronic Bill of Rights" dealing primarily with issues of privacy on the



Internet, including protecting medical records from Internet exposure and empowering users to remove their names from telemarketing lists.

TIME LINE '98

MAY CONT'D

>> The U.S. Department of Justice sues Microsoft for antitrust activities and monopolistic practices, alleging that the firm tries to control Web-browser and related software by linking its Internet Explorer and Windows 98 operating system to the detriment of rivals, especially Netscape.



JUNE

>> The Motion Picture Association of America begins to rate the content of movie studios' Web sites. Studios can still sidestep the ratings and create "unofficial" fan sites (such as *Baseketball's* *baseketball.com*) by providing Web-site designers with behind-the-scenes press materials.



MICHAEL TAMBOURNO/FPQ

>> Texas makes its entire database of criminal records available on the Internet, becoming the first state to do so.

JULY

>> Washington state's new anti-spam law goes into effect, and a Seattle man becomes the first to benefit from it, collecting \$200 from an online e-mail marketer whose unsolicited spam contained misleading information about its source.

A Matter of Truss

Convicted in April of kidnapping, tying up, and torturing a Barnard College student he had met online, 31-year-old doctoral candidate Oliver Jovanovic was sent to prison for 15 years to life by a Manhattan Supreme Court judge after a highly publicized trial.



AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

Now It's Larry King Live from the King David Hotel!

To circumvent the logjam in the rabbinic courts, Israelis can now file divorce papers over the Internet.

YAK KETY-YAK!

"Children are told by parents not to talk to strangers whom they meet on the street, but they are given a contrary message by Web sites that encourage them to interact with strangers in their homes via the Web." ■ FTC REPORT TO CONGRESS ON ABUSES ON THE INTERNET

STATS

320
MILLION
Estimated number of unique pages of content available on the Internet

25
THOUSAND
Number of modems America Online adds every month to keep up with the increasing demand for member dial-ups

92
PERCENT
Portion of all Web sites that collect personal data from visitors, including Social Security numbers and credit card numbers

YAK KETY-YAK!

"The Internet is clearly going to hurt a variety of channels, including brick-and-mortar retailers. The less efficient operators are going to lose, and the more efficient will win. We could have enacted laws to protect blacksmiths when the automobile came into effect, but I think in retrospect everyone would agree that would be counterproductive."

■ JERRY KAPLAN ■ CEO, Onsale Inc.

Hacker of Fortune

THE MAGAZINE OF CYBERMERCENARIES

Next Up: Manson for Ginsu Knives

Israel's largest newspaper, *Yedioth Ahronoth*, featured a full-page ad for EIM Co.'s Newron computer. The unlikely pitchman? Computer hacker Ehud Tenenbaum, aka Analyzer. The 18-year-old, best known for visiting the Pentagon's computer network when he wasn't invited, sat beside the headline: "In order to go far, you need the best tools."

I Want My Pub-lici-ty!

In an apparent bid for attention, MTV.com hacked its own Web site. "I'm in! I TOLD YOU GUYS I'D DO IT! J.F.," read the site on August 31. "J.F." turned out to be Johnny Fame, a then-unknown reporter whom the network, according to a spokesperson, "wanted to present [in] a dramatic and me-

dia-appropriate way." Sadly, Fame remains largely unknown.

Black Hack Hijack

To strengthen his discrimination case against Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, a black ex-employee allegedly hired a hacker to send fake e-mails containing racial epithets. The hacker was an undercover cop, and Christian Curry, 24, was arraigned on charges of forgery, tampering with physical evidence, and coercion.

The Trojan War

Using a "Trojan horse" program, a juvenile (named John Doe in court documents) stole the passwords of more than 500 AOL users. He was charged with one count of unlawful interception of electronic communications.



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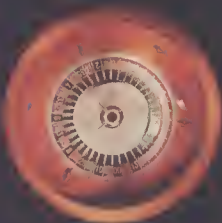
**HEWLETT
PACKARD**

Expanding Possibilities

TIME LINE '98

JULY CONT'D

VANDERLINDE/IMAGE BANK



➤ The U.S. Senate votes 90-10 to ban all Net gambling, except for fantasy sports leagues. A similar bill moves through the U.S. House. In addition, the Senate cracks down on adult sites by passing two bills that would punish—with fines of up to \$50,000—the distribution of pornography to minors over the Internet.

➤ AOL releases version 4.0, which is more tightly integrated with the Net. In October, AOL blankets the U.S. with CD-ROMs carrying the software.

AUGUST

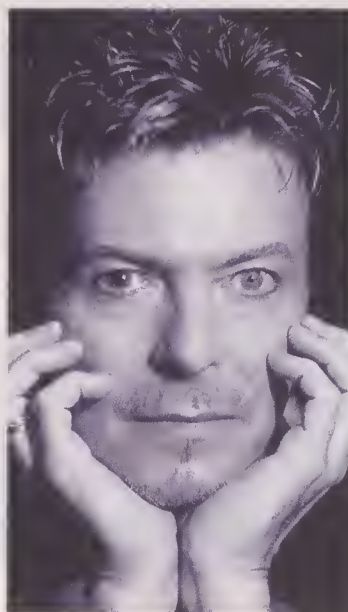
➤ MIT's Sloan School of Management announces that paper applications are out. From now on, all applications to the school must be submitted electronically over the Internet. Acceptances and rejections, however, will continue to be sent out by snail-mail.



➤ Blessings meet bandwidth: Pope John Paul II becomes the first pontiff to appear live on the Internet, cybercasting his Angelus prayers over the Vatican's Web site via RealAudio software.

Ground Control to Major Investment

Not content merely to be one of the world's richest entertainers, singer/conglomerate David Bowie launched BowieNet, an Internet service provider that for \$19.95 a month offers not only the usual Net trappings but also exclusive Bowie-centric offerings. What's more, subscribers get to have e-mail with a very cool @davidbowie.com return address.



KEVIN CUMMINGS/GETTY IMAGES/FEATURES

YAKKETY-YAK!

"We are currently faced with two worldwide revolutions...aging, or longevity, and the explosion in technology—both of which are driving the transformation of society. People over the age of 60 represent the fastest-growing segment of computer and Internet users." ■ CRAIG SPIEZZLE ■ director of Microsoft's senior initiative

Further Proof of the Electoral Potential for Online Voting



MITCHELL GEBBER/CORBIS

Howard Stern regular Hank, the Angry Drunken Dwarf, won *People Online's* "Most Beautiful People" poll, stomping over Leonardo DiCaprio and embarrassing *People Online* editors. The diminutive lush, often seen wearing a pink bunny suit, garnered 230,169 votes to DiCaprio's 14,471. Besides Stern's on-air promotion, support for the winner came in a widely circulated e-mail. "Your chance to subvert a national publication," it read. "With everyone's help, Leo can be knocked off. Let's show the world what a farce beauty contests are. GO HANK!!"

Wait Until Reverend Moon Hears About This

To promote the use of the Internet in China, 14 couples in Singapore got married online. The voyeuristic could view the wedding via a live video feed on the Web. "I want to share this special day with friends, family, and even strangers," said Patrick Ho, a 30-year-old production supervisor and newlywed. No cameras were taken on the honeymoons.

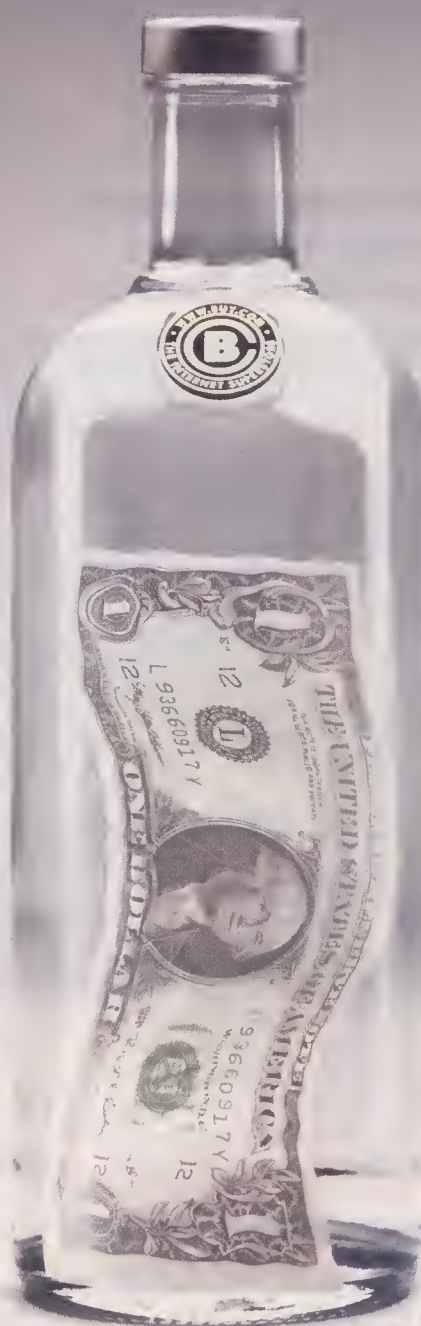
Anyone Who's Taken the Brown Acid: Please Reload Your Browsers

During the original 1969 concert, you couldn't find a shower or toilet. But the 29th anniversary of Woodstock allowed Internet users to watch the festivities online and use their own bathrooms. Infoseek simulcast the doings from Max Yasgur's upstate New York farm, and even provided a Shockwave-driven game, in which the player had to move a Rastafarian from the back of the crowd to the stage before the show began. So groovy.



AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

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TIME LINE '98

AUGUST CONT'D



PAM FRANCIS/GAMMA LIAISON

➤ Upon hearing that famed Houston-based surgeon Dr. Denton Cooley (pictured) plans to perform the first open-heart surgery shown live on the Internet, Dr. Robert Lazzara of the Providence Seattle Medical Center beats him to the incision, performing two bypasses the day before. Cooley's better-publicized event draws millions.

➤ President Clinton's Aug. 17 confession of an affair following his grand-jury testimony sends then-record numbers of surfers to Web news sites. Days later, Clinton orders missile attacks on targets in Afghanistan and Sudan. Several Web news outlets, including MSNBC.com and ABCNews.com, nearly buckle. The Mark McGwire-Sammy Sosa home-run race adds to the Web pandemonium of the week.



AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

SEPTEMBER

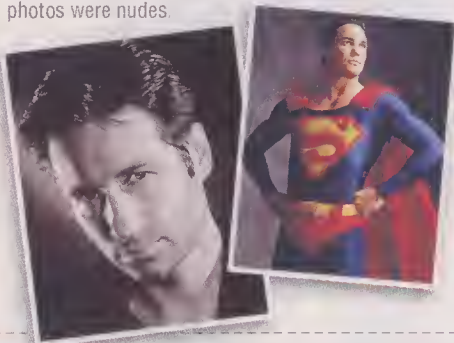
➤ History is made when Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's long-awaited 445-page report on grand-jury hearings in to the Clinton/Lewinsky affair is first released to the American public by way of the Internet. Records continue to fall.

So Much for That Report on Uranus

Sky Online, the Web arm of *Sky & Telescope* magazine, announced that kids at school couldn't get to its astronomy-oriented site because filtering software was triggered whenever any article spoke about viewing planets or stars with the "naked eye."

The Truth Is Out There on Krypton. \$5, Please.

X-Files star David Duchovny sued an Internet firm for selling forged autographed pictures. Ex-Superman Dean Cain, in a separate filing, sued the same company for the same reason. No word on whether the autographed photos were nudes.



DUCHOVNY: MICHAEL O'NEILL/OUTLINE; CAIN: EVERETT COLLECTION

Royal Flushed

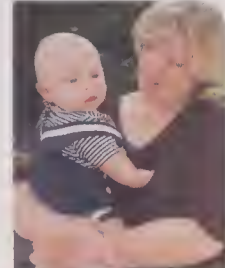
The phony Royal Meridian International Bank, touted on the Web as a sound place to invest money, bilked some 185 people, many of them elderly, out of \$7.2 million. "There are a lot of bad things going on over the Internet," John Stark, the Securities and Exchange Commission's cybercop, told the *Daily News* of New York. "We're in the greatest bull market in history at the same time as we're in the greatest information revolution in history."

He Was Awarded 5,000 Oreo Crumbs

The publisher of the *Putnam Pit*, arguing that Cookeville, Tennessee, municipal officials were spending too much of taxpayers' time and money fooling around on the Net, asked to see the cookies on City Hall's computers. When the town refused, he sued—claiming that his First Amendment rights had been violated and that all government documents, including cookies, are in the public domain.

Congratulations! It's a Cop!

When Elizabeth Ann Oliver on June 16 became the first woman to give birth live on the Internet (mother and son, Sean, are doing fine), it apparently never crossed her mind that anyone would be looking at her face. But Orange County, Florida, sheriffs are a focused lot, and Oliver was recognized as being wanted on at least 13 misdemeanor warrants stemming from bad-check-writing charges. After a short jailing, she was released on \$9,000 bail.



AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

I'm a Computer, Too!

Under Steve Jobs, Apple shipped a hearty 278,000 iMacs during the computer's first six weeks of sale, making the Internet-ready machine the fastest-selling Macintosh ever. The sales figures and a generally warm critical reception to the neat-looking box boosted Apple's spirits—as well as those of the Web's relatively high percentage of Mac-using surfers.



THOM O'DONNOR

Anchors McVeigh

When an AOL member identified himself in his online profile as a sailor named Tim and posted his marital status as "gay," a Navy investigator got on his trail. Prying the name from an AOL employee without a subpoena, the investigator "outed" 18-year veteran Senior Chief Petty Officer Timothy McVeigh (no relation), and the Navy began a discharge process. McVeigh sued for violation of his rights of privacy, claiming the AOL information was confidential. McVeigh won, retiring with full benefits. The Navy paid his legal fees. AOL apologized.

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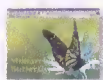
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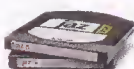
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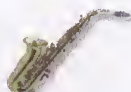


Organization to go.

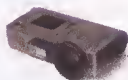
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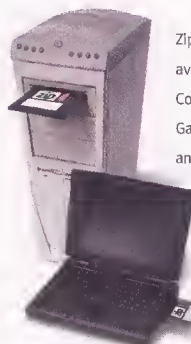
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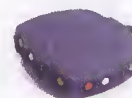
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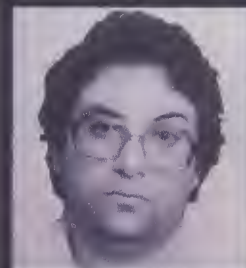
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TIME LINE '98

SEPTEMBER CONT'D

➤ The *New York Times* is forced to shut down its Web site after a group calling itself Hacking for Girlies alters the site, adding insulting remarks about a *Times* staffer. The group declares solidarity with jailed master hacker Kevin Mitnick (pictured). The group later disbands.



LA DAILY NEWS/ONYA

➤ A common standard is adopted for 56Kbps modems, assuring conformity among Net users and ISPs. The Net speeds up a bit.

➤ The videotape of President Clinton's grand-jury testimony is Webcast. The Net slows down. A lot.

OCTOBER

➤ The president signs the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, giving works posted on the Net the same copyright protection they receive off-line. Key provision: Anybody who uses such copyrighted material as photos, text, movies, and



music without permission on a site designed to make money can get keelhaunched with a \$1 million fine and up to a decade in jail. Sure to be affected by the new law is the Free Republic Web site, which not long before this was sued by the *Los Angeles Times* and *The Washington Post* for copyright infringement.

What's in a Domain Name?

YOU CAN CALL ME AL—JUST DON'T CALL ME .COM

What's the Problem? Merge 'Em

The White House finally had something to say about the porn site found at [www.whitehouse.com], which gets visits from careless Web surfers looking for the official executive-branch site at [www.whitehouse.gov]. "However distasteful your business may be, we do not challenge your right to pursue it or to exercise your First Amendment rights," presidential lawyer Charles F.C. Ruff wrote to the other site's owner, "but we do challenge your right to use the White House, the president, and the first lady as a marketing device." The porn-site proprietor's reply: "I personally like President Clinton and am happy with the way he is running the country."

First Dumbo's Mom. Now This.

A "deceptive trademark" suit was filed by the Ringling Bros. Circus against People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). The animal-rights group used [www.ringlingbrothers.com] as a soapbox for its cause, posting stories of the

mistreatment of circus elephants and, after the battle began making news, adding a video of a trainer beating an elephant. PETA later took down the offending pages. Ironically, in 1996, PETA had domain trouble of its own: A group called People Eating Tasty Animals registered its acronym on the Web, causing more fur to fly.

Stand by Your Dominatrix.com

Jim E. Salmon was a busy swimmer this year. In March, the California "businessman" gained notoriety for leading surfers to a faked pic of Hillary Clinton in a dominatrix outfit. Then he used the names of famous country singers to direct surfers to his porn site—and soon faced a lawsuit by a coalition of 24 country-music artists, including Reba McEntire, citing trademark infringement.

First You Twist Off the Top. Then You Get Creamed

An Ontario man was bullied by Nabisco into removing his site at oreos.com after the baked-goods company discovered he had posted links to adult-entertainment pages. Paul Figueiredo, who originally ran the Ontario Real Estate Online Services site before it went bust, was given until the end of January to comply. He did, fearing a lawsuit and, presumably, crumbs in his bed.

YAKKETY-YAK!

"We're still very much in the disco era of Web pages today. We'll look back in a decade and wonder what they were thinking." ■ MANISH VIJ

■ CEO, NetStudio

73
PERCENT

Portion of white students who own a computer

33
PERCENT

Portion of African-American students who own a computer

25
PERCENT

Share of all retail stock trades that are entered via Internet brokerages

100
DAYS

Amount of time it takes for traffic on the Internet to double

11
MILLION

Number of people who telecommute to work by computer

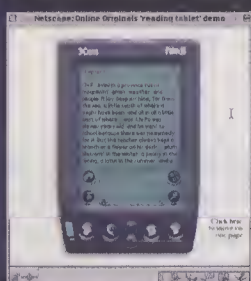


➤ Caught in the Middle: Ringling Bros. vs. PETA

TIME LINE '98

OCTOBER CONT'D

➤ The definition of a book as "an object printed on paper between covers" gets a rewrite. For the first time, a novel in the running for one of the literary world's most distinguished awards, the Booker Prize, is available exclusively on the Internet. Patricia Le Roy's sweeping historical fiction *The Angels of Russia* is "published" by Online Originals and can be purchased only on its Web site.



➤ A bill banning new taxes on the Internet for at least three more years is passed by the U.S. Senate. The Internet Tax Freedom Act stirred controversy because of amendments that deal with online pornography and children's privacy issues.



➤ President Clinton signs the Child Online Protection Act. It requires proprietors of "harmful" sites to keep minors out or face severe penalties. Free-speech advocates immediately sue the federal government over the law, claiming it might block adult access to constitutionally protected material and regulate sites some wouldn't consider pornographic.

STATS

68

PERCENT

Share of workers who log on to pornographic Web sites while at work

30

PERCENT

Share of workers who log on to news Web sites while at work

73

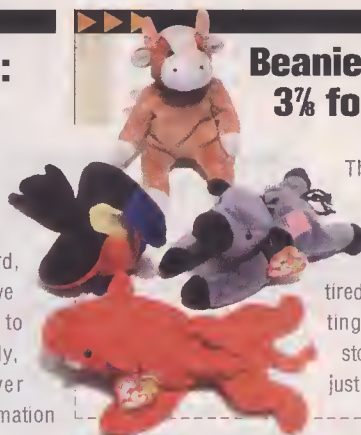
PERCENT

Portion of the 15,718 libraries in the United States that provide public access to the Internet

Keyword: "Oops"

When a caller phoned America Online customer service to change his password, the AOL representative was more than happy to assist. Unfortunately, the caller was never asked to verify information about his identity. As it turned out, he wasn't the true owner of the account and used his newfound access to break into the American Civil Liberties Union's site and vandalize it. The eager-to-please AOL employee got the ax.

Beanie Babies, Up 3% for the Day



The Internet became the medium of choice for heated, high-dollar auctions for new and "retired" Beanie Babies, in settings that often resembled stock exchanges. These are just toys, people.

Dear Puzzled: First, Jump 40 Buses

In May, Tripod announced that '70s daredevil Evel Knievel would begin writing his own online advice column. "I've pretty much done it all," said the Ann Landers wanna-be, "so they can ask me for advice on just about anything."

YAKKETY-YAK!

"We will end the days when the World Wide Web is referred to by some as the 'World Wide Wait,' and we can't wait for that transformation to take place." ■ VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE ■ again displaying his affinity for clichés

She's Now Planning a January IPO

In a tactic similar to killing one's parents and then asking for the court's mercy because you're an orphan, a California woman who racked up more than \$70,000 on a dozen credit cards while gambling via online casinos went to court to get out of paying. She claimed that Internet betting is illegal, that betting is illegal in California, and, anyway, banks shouldn't be underwriting illegal gambling operations.

Hunter S. Thompson Was Unavailable for Comment

In Colorado, Douglas Miller, age 24, fired a real gun at his monitor screen while playing a computer video game. Miller was later hospitalized for observation.


Imagine if It Had Been an Accent Grave

Because of a computer blip, an e-mail publicity campaign from Paramount touted *Deep Impact* star Téa Leoni as "T+A Leoni." Said the *New York Post*: "We doubt studio execs refer to the slender wife of *X-Files* hunk David Duchovny that way."



Teed Off: Téa Leoni

ILLUSTRATION: TIM GARDNER

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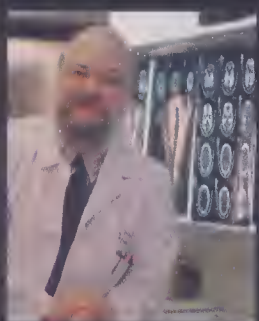
TIME LINE '98

OCTOBER CONT'D



John Glenn's return to space is Webcast, and the launch draws record crowds to news sites. Days later, an audio-only Q&A session is held online for students at two museums and at John Glenn High School in New Concord, Ohio.

In Georgia, a paralyzed man named J.R. receives a brain implant that allows him to control a computer with his thoughts (actually, neurological impulses). "We'd like to get [him] on the Internet," says Dr. Roy Bakay (pictured), who developed the implant with Phillip Kennedy.



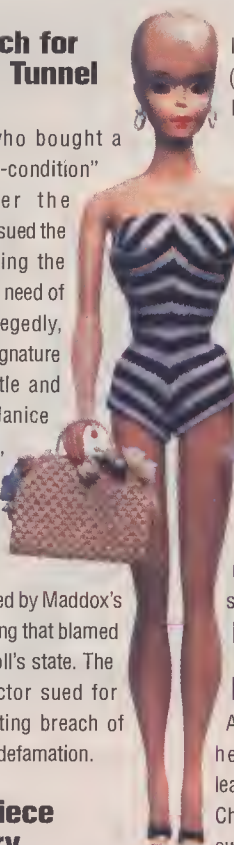
The Microsoft antitrust trial begins. Hailed in advance as one of the decade's seminal face-offs, it's being watched intently by those online. In November, Web surfers are able to screen Bill Gates's videotaped testimony, in which the wealthiest man in America claims he cannot remember key dealings with his competitor, Netscape Communications Corp.

Who Says People Don't Make Money on the Net?

THESE FOLKS FOUND THEIR BROWSERS' CASH

How Much for a Carpal Tunnel Barbie?

A woman who bought a 1960s "mint-condition" Barbie over the Internet later sued the seller, claiming the doll arrived in need of Rogaine. Allegedly, the Barbie's signature 'do was brittle and falling out. Janice Amundson, who bought the \$1,800 doll from Lori Maddox, was further angered by Maddox's Internet posting that blamed her for the doll's state. The Barbie collector sued for \$200,000, citing breach of contract and defamation.



land development. For only \$19.95 (and a loss of dignity), you could have had one, too.

Partial-Birth Adoption

It's not the equivalent of opening egg cartons in the supermarket aisle, but it's close: Creating Families became the first online "open" international embryo-adoption program. The company allows donor families and client families to view profiles of one another and then decide how much information they wish to share. Take your basket to [www.eggdonorfertilitybank.com].

Naming Names

As if the antitrust suit weren't headache enough, Microsoft learned via a lawsuit that a bankrupt Chicago-area ISP called SyNet owned the name *Internet Explorer*. Although the Redmond behemoth declared it could have won the case, it chose instead to settle out of court—for \$5 million.

Own a Piece of History

In January, Arkansas rancher Carey Carpenter began selling "Whitewater Micro-Acres" over the Net. The square-foot plots are near the famous

They All Feel Soooo Much Better

The home page of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission [www.truth.org.za] offered as one feature a Register of Reconciliation to give "members of the public a chance to express their regret at failing to prevent human-rights violations." South Africans and others were urged to confess sins and apologize for past deeds against the country's black population. Hundreds from all over the world were contrite.

YAKKETY-YAK!

"We told you to kiss your browser good-bye. Maybe we should rephrase that." ■ PAUL

BOUTIN ■ on *Wired Digital's* failed *LiveWired* project

And One More Makes 11...

In November, radio moralist Dr. Laura Schlessinger, the 51-year-old author of *Ten Stupid Things Women Do to Mess Up Their Lives*, lost a court battle to prevent a Web site from running nude photos of her as a twentysomething. The pictures, to be posted by IEG, were supposedly taken by Dr. Laura's now-80-year-old former lover.



Our Whole Damn Staff Immediately Went on Prozac

Contrary to expectations, a surprising two-year Carnegie Mellon University study found that people who get on the Internet, even for only a few hours a week, end up more lonely and depressed than if they had never gone online at all. The study was hyped on the front page of *The New York Times*. In our own study, *Y-Life* found that steady exposure to the front page can cause more depression than if people had never read the newspaper at all.

STATS

800 THOUSAND

Number of modems America Online has operating at any given time

14 PERCENT

Portion of Web sites that collect personal data and tell users when information is being gathered and how it will be used

THE
Computer
PAGE.

User-Friendly Guides

UPGRADING AND REPAIRING PCs 10TH EDITION

by Scott Mueller

Completely revised and up-to-date, Scott Mueller's bestselling classic has over 300 pages of new coverage of processors, motherboards, chipsets, printers, memory and hard drive specifications. An excellent resource and a super value, this trusted reference is essential for upgrading, troubleshooting and repairing the entire PC. (Que)

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PROGRAMMING WINDOWS® 5TH EDITION

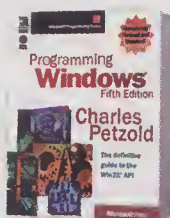
by Charles Petzold

A superior reference, now in its fifth edition, *Programming Windows* has been fully revised for Windows 98. Author Charles Petzold once again proves himself to be the authority on getting the most out of your software. (Microsoft Press)

Pub. Price: \$59.99

Discount 20%

B&N Price \$47.99



HOW COMPUTERS WORK 4TH EDITION

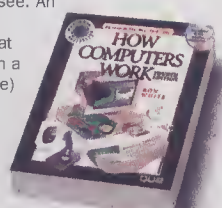
by Ron White

Have you always been curious about—but afraid to investigate—the inner workings of a PC? *How Computers Work*, now in its fourth edition, offers an excellent analysis of the PC you don't see. An easy to understand graphic reference that comes complete with a helpful CD-ROM. (Que)

Pub. Price: \$29.99

Discount 20%

B&N Price \$23.99



PCs FOR DUMMIES® 6TH EDITION

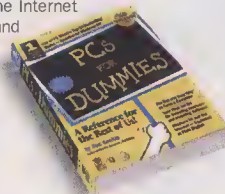
by Dan Gookin

Updated to encompass Windows 98, *PCs for Dummies* is the ideal reference for both the first-time PC user and anyone who is jargon leery. It provides easy-to-follow advice on how to set up your computer, install software and use the Internet for Web browsing, e-mail and more. (IDG Books)

Pub. Price: \$19.99

Discount 20%

B&N Price \$15.99



WEB PAGES THAT SUCK

by Vincent Flanders
& Michael Willis

Learn Web design techniques with the humorous, hands-on approach in *Web Pages That Suck*, from the creators of the award-winning site of the same name. The software CD is packed with valuable material that comes with the authors' stamp of approval. (Sybex)

Pub. Price: \$39.00

Discount 20%

B&N Price \$31.20



NORTON'S UTILITIES BUNDLE

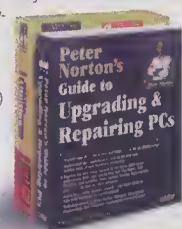
by Peter Norton & Michael Desmond

You can perform basic repairs on your PC with expert advice from a name you can trust. Exploit your computer's full potential. Know the pros and cons of various upgrade options. Lose your dependency on PC repair techs and start saving money today! Includes the book *Upgrading and Repairing PCs* and Norton Utilities Software. (Sams)

Pub. Price: \$79.99

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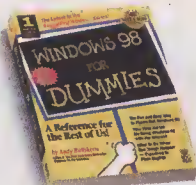
by Andy Rathbone

Make the most of Windows 98! Enjoy all the multimedia features and Internet tools available. Update your DOS and Windows programs so they can work under Microsoft's latest version. Save time and forget frustration—*Windows 98 for Dummies* leads the way. (IDG Books)

Pub. Price: \$19.99

Discount 20%

B&N Price \$15.99



PALMPILOT: THE ULTIMATE GUIDE

by David Pogue

In this most comprehensive Pilot book yet written, David Pogue shows you how to get the most out of this handheld wonder. Includes tips on using HotSync to synch-ronize data between the PalmPilot and a Mac or a Windows PC; on how to use PalmPilot online; and on troubleshooting both software and hardware. (O'Reilly)

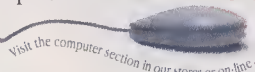
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TIME LINE '98

NOVEMBER

» One day before Election Day, ABCNews.com posts "complete" election results on its Web page. ABC says it was just testing the pages and removes the misinformation, but not before ABC's snafu is captured and put on display—by Matt Drudge.

» On Election Day, Net newbie President Clinton goes online for his first extended Net session (on a Toshiba laptop), pulling down election results. Later that week, on a live connection with the space shuttle, he and John Glenn exchange e-mail. And shortly after *that*, Net veteran Newt Gingrich announces his resignation. Go figure.

» The "e-rate" arrives, providing a federal Net-access discount to schools and libraries.

DECEMBER

» United Parcel Service has more to carry this holiday season, in part, it says, because of the increasing popularity of online shopping. UPS predicts its holiday deliveries in general will rise by as many as 19 million packages.

» America Online costars with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan in *You've Got Mail*, the world's first cyber-romantic comedy.



Overheard on the Net

DIPPING INTO THE BITSTREAM OF 1998'S ONLINE CHATS

"There are a lot of people in the business I like and respect, but...the people who are producing a movie I'm on? After they call 'Wrap!' do I think they give a s—t?" Actress **SHARON STONE**, to Mr. Showbiz

"That was one of the greatest feelings of my life. Almost as good as Chef scoring." The voice of *South Park's* Chef, **ISAAC HAYES**, on winning an Oscar for the 1971 blaxploitation flick *Shaft*, to TVGEN

"If you're going to be sexy in a photo, you'd better be thinking about sex rather than thinking about being sexy." *La Femme Nikita* star **PETA WILSON**, to Mr. Showbiz

"I think the press has been as fair with me as they've been with anybody—they just had to deal with me longer than almost anybody you can think of." *Bulworth* star **WARREN BEATTY**, to E! Online

"I was, like, 'Huston, Barrymore—let's go pay respect to our families and the history of Hollywood!'" Actress **DREW BARRYMORE**, on her work with Anjelica Huston in *Ever After*, to Mr. Showbiz



» Sharon Stone



» Isaac Hayes



» Peta Wilson



» Warren Beatty



» Drew Barrymore

FRANK TRAPPER/SYGMA

GREGORY PACES/SYGMA

RUSSEL EINHORN/GAMMA LIAISON

LAWRENCE SCHWARTZ/GAMMA LIAISON

EVAN AGOSTINI/GAMMA LIAISON

Caught One-Handed

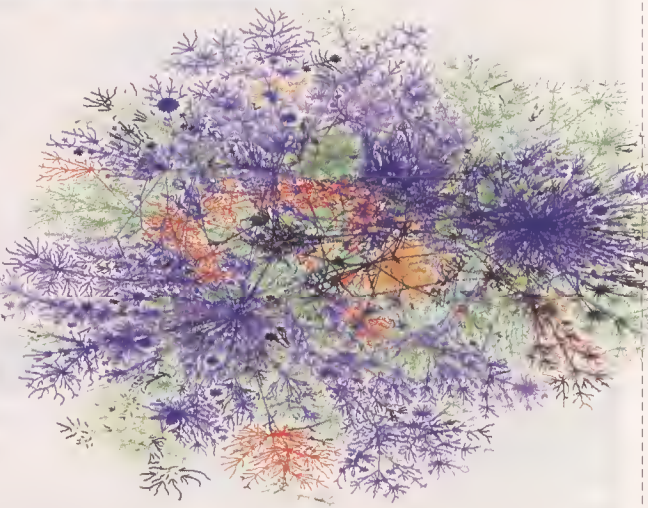
Debra Young, a cyberspy who catches married people having affairs online, sends suggestive e-mails to potential adulterers. Young, who says she's caught (or entrapped) more than 600 people, charges \$25 for arranging a chat and \$50 for an off-line meeting. A good deal, given that she's getting paid to do what many AOL users would gladly do for free.

The Thanks of a Grateful Nation

If you're enjoying faster computers, better monitors, and speedier Internet downloads, give a high-five to your friendly Net pornographer, says Queens University professor Michael Mehta. Consumers of porn sites are demanding quicker access and improved image quality. And because porn sites are incredibly popular and make money (they are among the few businesses on the Web that do), the users' desires are driving technological innovations that benefit all.

Men Still Won't Ask for Directions

No, it's not abstract art or a Rorschach test. It's a map of the Internet by the Cooperative Association for Internet Data Analysis (CAIDA) at the University of California, San Diego. The colorful blueprints are produced when a software program called Skitter tracks data across computer networks; colors represent countries (the U.S. is blue), and the branches are file packets "hopping" from site to site.





Dear Mrs. Johnson,

It is with my deepest sympathy that I write this letter to inform you that your son, Joe, was mostly melted yesterday in a skirmish with a unit of Tan soldiers.

What is left of Joe I've enclosed in this little baggie. I thought you might like to keep it. If anything else turns up, we will forward it immediately.

You should be proud to know that Joe fought bravely till the very end. As a keepsake, I've attached a photo of Joe in action.

Most people think it's some kind of game out here. For us, every day is a battle for survival. Joe understands that now.

With you in your time of sorrow,

Sarge
Sarge



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FORECASTS FROM THE EXPERTS

fearless predictions 1999

We survey the savvy about what they think will happen on the Net next year. Quel courage!

»» Who really knows? Toward the end of 1995, a man generally acknowledged to be pretty smart about software and technology, Bill Gates, was approving strategic budgets for his pretty successful company. Curious thing was, there were no plans—and hardly any funds—devoted to the Internet. Just a few weeks later, after listening to some good advice, he flipped his megabillion-dollar business around, focusing it on the Net. It has been ever thus: Only those with courage, smarts, or a fairly wide foolish streak dare to predict what the Net will bring. At the very least, we've got two out of three.



»» Lisa Palac

»» David Pescovitz

PALAC: MARK EDWARD HARRIS

"IN 1999, THE TRANSFORMATION OF the World Wide Web into an electronic strip mall will be complete. But at some point toward the end of the year, everyone will share the common thought: 'Is that what this technology is really for?' Suddenly, Internet users will seek out and find the kinds of discussion groups and interactive exchanges that provide experiences much more meaningful than mouse-click consumption, and cyberspace's communicative function will be restored." »» DOUGLAS RUSHKOFF »» author of *Media Virus!* and the upcoming *Coercion: Why We Listen to What They Say*

"EXPECT TO SEE EVERYTHING WE'RE experiencing today—except much, much more! I think 1999 will see the introduction of more-affordable devices to enable widespread Internet access. And with the advent of truly inexpensive and easy-to-use personal computers, we'll see more and more people surfing the Web, shopping, and making new connections than ever before." »» VINTON G. CERF »» "father of the Internet" and a senior vice president at MCI

"ONE THING IS CERTAIN, AND THAT is the continued exponential growth and size of the Internet, which includes its becoming more globally ubiquitous. In addition, there's sure to be continued dramatic scaling in Internet-based e-commerce, and significant new innovations to provide capabilities we haven't yet thought of." »» ANTHONY RUTKOWSKI »» former executive director of the Internet Society

"I PREDICT YOU ARE GOING TO BE hearing a lot about 'augmented reality' next year. There's going to be a trend away from making the Net like a speaking tube and a mail service and a magazine, and more toward making it like a spycam and binoculars and a weather station and such. Cyberspace is commonplace now, but it's fun to have new, Net-assisted ways to examine the real world." »» BRUCE STERLING »» science-fiction writer and coauthor of *The Difference Engine*

"WE THINK BILL GATES HAS SOMETHING in mind that's not only going to help us make an easy switchover into the new millennium, but it'll be something so different and so accessible that, once again, he'll be where he's at because of his genius. The fear about Y2K was put into us so that we'd feel a desperate need to really want to make a change, which is a brilliant marketing strategy. Whatever new technology it is that Gates has planned for us, people will get into it as part of a panic. People will think of his new technology as a necessity rather than a choice." »» THE BARBI TWINS »» digital models at *Extra Online*

"WHEN THE MARKET CEASES TO inflate the value of Internet ventures, the underlying noncommercial efforts that have always been the soul of the Net will become more visible. There will be an increase in the use of the Internet, both commercially and informally, to support barter and other strategies to cope with eco-



>> Douglas Rushkoff



>> The Barbi Twins



>> Kevin Kelly



>> Alberta Chu

nomic difficulties. There will be campaigns to start person-to-person, pen pal-like initiatives to reduce international tensions in dark times. Sometime in the next year, an unex-

pected, fresh form of art will appear somewhere on the Net and become big news." >> **JARON LANIER** >> computer scientist, author, and artist who coined the term "virtual reality"

"NINETEEN NINETY-NINE WILL BE A relatively hassle-free year in terms of lawsuits for Net-sex aficionados, cyberpornographers, and other sexual freethinkers on the Web. After so many House and Senate leaders were outed for their sexual peccadilloes during the Clinton sex scandal and impeachment investigation, and Ken Starr's appearance in an amateur porn tape became available on the Net, right-wing moral groups will decide to stop harping about the evils of sex—at least for now. Our national attention will be focused on how to plan a cool New Year's Eve party in the shadow of the potential Y2K disaster." >>

LISA PALAC >> sex writer and author of *The Edge of the Bed*

utopian hopes. This will be the year of total world crash—in terms of economic systems, global climate change, chemical and biological terror, disgust with the political mainstream in the U.S., and much more. In 1999, the Internet will be the site of a new pessimism, and it will experience frequent shutdowns due primarily to weather-related problems, dangerous hacks, and stock failures. Finally, at the end of the year, the millennium bug will be something that a world teetering on the brink cannot afford." >> **R.U. SIRIUS** >> freelance writer and prankster

1999 Predict-O-Rama

BY MARK GLASER

>> **BILL GATES AND BILL CLINTON** create the first online support group for government-inquiry survivors. Clinton surprises few when he bans videocam coverage of the meetings.

>> **E-COMMERCE IS SUPPLANTED** by "she-commerce," as money-losing Web entrepreneurs realize that sex sites remain the Net's first and most viable means of profit.

>> **SATURN COMMUNICATIONS**, an upstart New York-based market-research firm, says the population of Net users will decrease by 20 percent in the next year. After a brief industry panic, the firm is discredited when *60 Minutes* reports that a consortium of disgruntled TV-network execs and laid-off typewriter salesmen backed the study.

>> **A WALL STREET BACKLASH** spurs Internet portals to strip themselves of "channels" and reinvent themselves as...basic search engines. Now you may actually find what you're looking for.

>> **LOTUS BLENDS ITS NOTES** technology with 3-D modeling to create edible spam. Soon, the seriously spammed are forwarding their junk e-mail to food banks in developing countries. Within a month, it's bouncing back with the error message "Dank, sed ne, dank" (Esperanto for "Thanks, but no, thanks").

>> **ON DECEMBER 31, THE ARTIST** formerly known as the Artist returns as Prince for a New Year's Eve Webcast, partying "like it's 1999." But the Y2K bug kicks in after his first set. Confused satellites proceed to jam the video signals with leftover images from CBS's *New Year's Eve '66 with Guy Lombardo and the Royal Canadians*.

FYI: Our "1998 Predict-O-Rama" was so prescient (e.g., "Microsoft buys U.S. Department of Justice") that you'll probably have to wait until the end of 1999 for all of its predictions to pan out. We're impressed by its 6 percent success rate thus far.

"1. PEOPLE WILL START TO REALIZE that the Internet is *underhyped*.

2. The Internet will double in size.

3. The number of Internet hosts in the southern hemisphere will quadruple.

4. Serious copyright wars will break out, primarily involving the Recording Industry Association of America, the Motion Picture Association, and widespread acts of civil disobedience.

5. Congress, in an act of stupefying hypocrisy, will pass Communications Decency Act II." >> **JOHN PERRY BARLOW** >> co-founder and vice chairman of the Electronic Frontier Foundation

"PREPARE FOR WORLD FLIP-OUT! Throughout the '90s, the Internet has been the site of tremendous hope and optimism, with cyberpunks and computer corporations advertising its

"RATHER THAN THE DIGITAL WORLD obsolescing the analog, I think we'll see more of an interface between the two. For example, more telerobotic devices controllable over the network will be installed in public and private locations, ranging from offices to cafés to museums. These 'meatspace avatars' will serve as our eyes/ears/mouths/hands in remote places as we use wireless, wearable information appliances and media-creation tools to share high-bandwidth, real-time data with the telerobots, microscopic sensors and actuators, the online knowledge base, and—of course—other sentient beings." >> **DAVID PESCOVITZ** >> coauthor of *Reality Check* and story editor for CNET's forthcoming *The Way We Will*

"IN 1999, THE WORLD WILL demonstrate a fundamental shift in business strategy around the Internet. And despite economic



>> Jaron Lanier



>> Anthony Rutkowski



>> Bruce Sterling



>> Brenda Laurel

woes, Asia will lay out plans to adopt the Internet phenomenon at a faster rate, which may very well exceed the rate in the U.S." >> **MALCOLM CASSELLE** >> cofounder, senior vice president, and chief technology officer of NefNoir

"I THINK WE'RE GOING TO SEE A troubling gap forming between users with different bandwidths. Increasing numbers of people are starting to enjoy high-speed access, but it's mainly in coastal urban centers. I'm afraid we may end up with

'coach-class' and 'first-class' Net users, with the coach folks poking along at 36.6Kbps and 56.6Kbps, drooling over all of the gourmet goodies being enjoyed by first class while they snack on stale info-nuggets." >> **GARETH BRANWYN** >> editor in chief of Street Tech

but their real impact will be to raise the bar for innovative, engaging content sites. The influence of kids online will drive the development of a breakthrough Internet business model." >> **BRENDA LAUREL** >> cofounder and vice president of Purple Moon

How'd They Do?

LAST YEAR'S PREDICTIONS

Yup!

"I expect MSN to continue to languish. Very few services or content areas have found much of an audience for anything but e-mail and chat. That leaves very few companies leading categories. I believe the prize for first place will vastly exceed second. Winners, in my view, include AOL, Yahoo!, CNET, and E*Trade." —**KEITH BENJAMIN**, Internet analyst at Robertson & Stevens and Co.

Not Quite

"Nineteen ninety-eight will be the year of Web/disk hybrids, as publishers realize that it's a lot easier to charge people for shrink-wrapped product than online access....[This] is the year stored media and online media start shacking up." —**J.C. HERZ**, author of *Joystick Nation*

On the Money

"The world will be gripped by a widespread infectious malady which doctors will call False Internet Nostalgia Syndrome. Victims will compulsively

reminisce with each other about how great the Web was in the simple years past, when fewer people and sites were online. Meanwhile, surfing in private, everyone will basically say what they always have since the start: 'This thing is slow, and it sucks.'" —**WALTER MILLER**, columnist for the *Netly News*, which folded

Presto!

"We will continue to be told that freedom is a bad idea. The Net will be blamed for more kiddie porn, terrorism, and loss of privacy. Those who remember that these things predate home computers (and maybe even Pong) will get blue in the face to keep the future getting better." —**PENN JILLETTE**, magician, half of Penn & Teller

So Right, Dave!

"I don't know about the rest of cyberspace, but for me 1998 means more free time to design Web pages!" —**DAVID LETTERMAN**, host of *Late Show with David Letterman*

"1. YAHOO! AND AMAZON.COM WILL both lose half their stock value.

2. Cops will bust an organized fraud ring on eBay for fencing stolen goods.

3. Wal-Mart will become the e-commerce poster boy.

4. America Online will reach 30 million members, worldwide.

5. The 1998 status symbol: To have wireless Internet connections in your home or office." >> **KEVIN KELLY** >> executive editor of *Wired*

"MICROPAYMENTS—SMALL charges of a few cents a page—will become a fact of life, as many sites realize they cannot break even on ads alone." >> **ROGER EBERT** >> film critic and *Net* columnist for *Yahoo! Internet Life*

"IN 1999, THE CREATIVE MINDS OF the media will work to form a standard for journalistic integrity for some portions of the Internet." >> **ALBERTA CHU** >> documentary filmmaker

"KIDS WILL SWARM THE INTERNET this year, and the novelty of mosh pit-style chats will quickly wear off. Kids will make better-than-expected contributions to e-commerce revenues,

"I CAN ONLY FORESEE THE NET GETTING weirder as the 500-channel future of television gets closer and the Web becomes the low-cost laboratory for spawning television projects. This is a quite significant step in cultural evolution. Every man and woman has the potential to become a star in the next millennium." >> **RICHARD METZGER** >> editor of *Disinformation*

"FOR CORPORATIONS, 1999 WILL be known as the Year of the Internet Bloodbath, as too many companies with too little income realize that they can't spend too much money to attract too few visitors to their sites. The result will be massive consolidation. For users, the Net will become mainstream. Live births in streaming video will be so commonplace on the Web that nobody will even write about them. At least one funeral will be presented online, and far-off loved ones will share in the pathos. Couples who met in chat rooms will marry, and their friends will attend via IRC chat. I predict one widely publicized divorce when the husband discovers too late that the woman he met on the Web is really a man." >> **JIM MOLOSHOK** >> president of Warner Bros. Online



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✧ THE ROAD TO ✧ WEBVILLE

THE GLOBAL VILLAGE
IS REALLY ~~A~~  SMALL TOWN

AND
 YOU CAN GET
THERE FROM HERE

The Web's settlements are banding into quickly growing communities—artists' colonies, teen hangouts, senior-citizen clubs. Welcome, strangers

BY DAVID KUSHNER

ILLUSTRATION BY MARK ULRIKSEN





"Like primitives, we now live in a 'global village' of our own making, a simultaneous happening. The global village is not created by the motorcar, or even by the airplane. It is created by instant electronic information movement. The global village is at once as wide as the planet and as small as the little town." —MARSHALL MCLUHAN, 1967

When media guru Marshall McLuhan coined the term "global village" in 1967, he was talking about the impact of such increasingly ubiquitous technologies as the telephone, the radio, and the television set. But he might as well have been talking about the Net.

Though the Internet has been compared to a global village in the past (one modem manufacturer even used the phrase for its name), the metaphor has never been more apt. In the last few months, "community" has become big business as new-media companies scramble to offer tools for building virtual villages. Want a home online? It's never been easier to have one.

At a recent summit of portal leaders, David Gang, senior vice president of strategic development for America Online, said that "communities are the power and lifeblood of this emerging medium." And communities aren't just for AOL anymore. There are such free-site home-page services as GeoCities and theglobe.com, as well as newfangled "clubs" on Yahoo! and Excite.

It used to be that creating one's own online community meant having to find a hosting service and learn HTML programming. No more. With the rapid spread of free and easy community software, even Granny can build her own online condo—within minutes. As a result, more people than ever are trolling through, and settling into, digital digs. Sixty million people clicked up communities in just one month, reports Media Metrix, a Web-traffic-measurement service.

For these surfers, the trend isn't merely about having a home page; it's about having a home. In all, it's a seismic shift in the evolution of what cyberspace signifies. At first, the Net was considered the information superhighway. As if. The main impulse, since the first flicker of AOL's Flirts Nook, has been to connect with humans, not information. Through chat. Through message boards. Through Beanie Babies home pages. And now that nearly every online service is offering these tools, it's time to pull off the highway into Webville.

The 'Burbs

In many places online, it's back to the days of Levittown—the Long Island community that became a symbol of postwar suburban migration. Early on, mainstream surfers were pretty

much sticking to such mother-ship commercial services as AOL, CompuServe, and Prodigy. Now, lured by the legions of companies offering free personal home pages, these cyber-tourists are setting up camp on the Net.

Instead of focusing on prepackaged content or message boards and chat, these communities—GeoCities, theglobe.com, Xoom, Homestead, even AOL itself—turn everyone into Bob Vila. They offer the tools and space to build This Old House online. Best of all, there's no cost: Revenue comes from advertising banners placed not-so-discreetly on each person's page. (Hey, what do you expect for nothing?)

To participate, you merely need to surf by and fill out an online registration form. Within a few minutes, you get to go wild with around 10 megabytes of the provider's server space (that's plenty of room for the average Webvillian). Contrary to what many people might think, basic HTML programming is about as difficult as toasting a muffin. Choosing colors and fonts and images is a matter of clicking on the appropriate buttons; ambitious page makers can always spice up their sites with such tricks as Shockwave and streaming media if they want to invest the time—and wear the wrist splints.

The increased ease of use and accessibility of home-page-making tools has lured millions of Netizens—among them, Murray and Leslie Cholowsky. The Cholowskys have used their GeoCities sites to display their artwork. "For us," says Leslie, "it's a way to meet more people, because we live in a small town in a rural area.

In a rural community, it is hard to find others with similar interests. On the Internet, it is quite easy, especially when online communities offer 'themed' neighborhoods."

Well, sort of. What many services call "neighborhoods" are at present rather arbitrary attempts to create a sense of place. On GeoCities, for example, surfers choose to host their pages within a listing of others who share similar interests—artists reside in SoHo, partiers in South Beach. On theglobe.com, "cities" carry such generic names as Money and Sports.

Despite the architecture, not every member of these online communities feels like popping next door for coffee. "It doesn't feel like a neighborhood," says Proxy Girl, another GeoCities resident. "My neighbors are people with slots next door to me, but their topics are totally different from mine." GeoCities tries to instill community spirit, she adds, "but I don't think it works."

And Howard Rheingold, author of the influential 1993 tome *The Virtual Community*, thinks that those seeking camaraderie on the large services are getting a raw deal. "I take exception to [these services'] use of the word *community*," he says. "I restrict that word to the subset of institutions where people actually communicate with each other."

Well, who ever sees a Welcome Wagon in the real world any-

THOUGH THE
INTERNET
HAS BEEN COMPARED
TO A
GLOBAL VILLAGE
IN THE PAST,
THE METAPHOR HAS
NEVER BEEN MORE APT

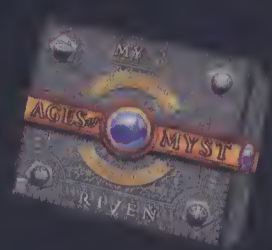


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more? Like those off-line, online burbs are cozy places to build a home. Making friends, if that's your goal, takes more swing.

❧ Downtown

San Francisco has North Beach; New York, Greenwich Village; Tampa, Ybor City. Head to any city, and there's an urban enclave for punks, poets, and assorted bohemians. Webville is the same, offering alternative communities for those uninterested in the sprawling home-page fair.

These sites hark back to the late-'80s glory days of bulletin-board services—text-based environments that required members to pay a small fee, then dial in to a modem that could very well have been in someone's garage. The main action here was—and is—dialogue. Message-board areas cover topics ranging from body piercing to ichthyology. Sometimes, you may even get a little of both.

Two of the most venerable are the WELL, based in San Francisco, and New York's ECHO. Though such home-page services as theglobe.com and Xoom boast millions of members, indie-minded communities such as these cap off at around 3,000. The real attraction: the prospect of arguing, discussing, haranguing, and entertaining one another. "BBS sounds kind of geeky," says ECHO's founder, Stacy Horn. "I like to say we're a *salon*."

The Net has bred its own "alt" communities, as well. For example, bianca started out as an adult-oriented message-board service. Now 20,000 members pay a nominal fee to get e-mail, Internet service, and home pages, known as "shacklets." Though there's still flirty chat available, bianca's wide-ranging discussions have expanded the audience and the appeal—so much so that bianca was acquired by Zapata, the same company that bought up the award-winning e-zine Word. (In October, however, Zapata got cold feet and abandoned its ambitious plans for online content development, leaving Word and Charged, another e-zine, under its helm.)

Amid the paving of Webville, these sites offer a respite from the noisy construction. As novelist and ECHO member Douglas Cooper says, "It's the difference between choosing to rent an apartment in the East Village vs. a bungalow in the suburbs of Dallas."

❧ The Mall

Saturday afternoon. Rainy day. What to do? Cruise on over to the mall. Webville has its own entertainment hangouts.

Gamers have left the sticky soda-pop floors of the minimall arcades for the visceral carnage of multiplayer competition. Such games as Doom and Quake, which have each sold millions of copies, have also inspired thousands of international "clans"—teams of a dozen or so players who meet, practice, and compete almost exclusively over the Net. At a communal

site such as the AMD Professional Gamers' League, strategy and shoot-'em-up players convene daily to duke it out over the wires—all for a grand-prize booty of around \$70,000.

Rather than put up posters at local CD and video stores, aficionados of music, TV, and film have been launching their own fan sites. These days, more of them are coming together through the ever-expanding Web-ring model. Invented by a then-17-year-old Californian named Sage Weil, the Web ring is a novel way to link together different sites that share an area of interest. For example, you can visit the Alyssa Milano Web ring and then take a linked tour of other Milanohead sites. At present, more than 500,000 sites are joined through some 46,000 rings.

Similarly, the Mining Co. offers intrepid surfers the opportunity to be the tour guides of their own special-interest groups. For a nominal fee, an expert in, say, hip-hop can work for the Mining Co. by collecting links, leading discussions, and arranging for special guest chat events. Ben Miller, a guide in the College Life site, spends almost 20 hours a week tweaking his area. "The more I do it," he says, "the easier it gets, and the more fun it is. Plus, the more I put into the site, the better it is. I want to provide the absolute best information available to all college students."

❧ On Campus

Drop in on any community, and you'll hear endless rhetoric about how the young are the future. Well, they are—especially online, where younger surfers are more comfortable in the medium and often have unlimited access through schools and universities. Now, communities aimed at teenagers and twentysomethings are vying to lure this lucrative demographic group away from the big 'burbs and downtown scene.

Created by Dan Pelson, the 32-year-old cofounder of Word and Charged, Bolt is this generation's answer to *Big Blue Marble*—the '70s TV-news show made by and for kids. Boltsters, as they're known here, are generally 15- to 20-year-olds, members of an age group for whom surfing the Net is second nature. "For teens," Pelson says, "the computer, like the TV, is just a box. What they're most comfortable with is the Net as a medium."

And what's the message of the medium for them? The same thing that keeps them burning up their parents' phone bills late into the night: yakking. Bolt cleverly re-creates the teen communication experience. Members, who register for free, can "whisper" to one another (through instant-message "zaps"), pass Bolt notes, and rant about everything from dating to Hanson.

Similarly, Tripod has become a bastion of the collegiate and postcollegiate crowd. The cofounder, Bo Peabody, was a student at Williams College when he conceived of "a hipper AOL." Today, Tripod has grown to host millions of Gen-Xish personal home pages, plus a variety of Pods—moderated message boards covering everything from interning to late-night snack food (ramen noodles not included).

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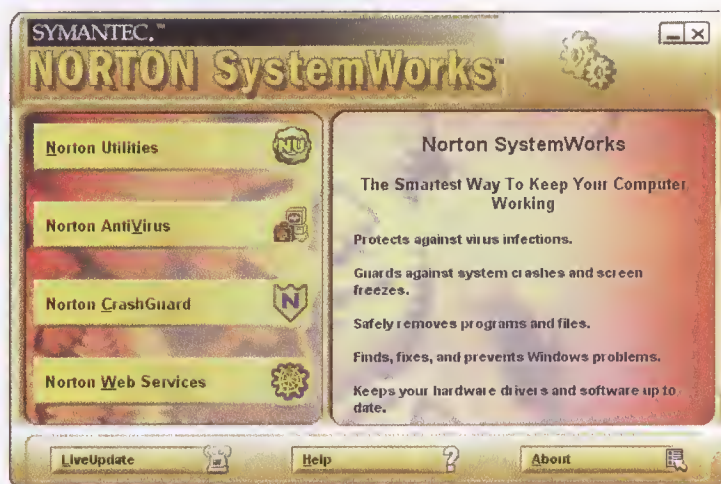
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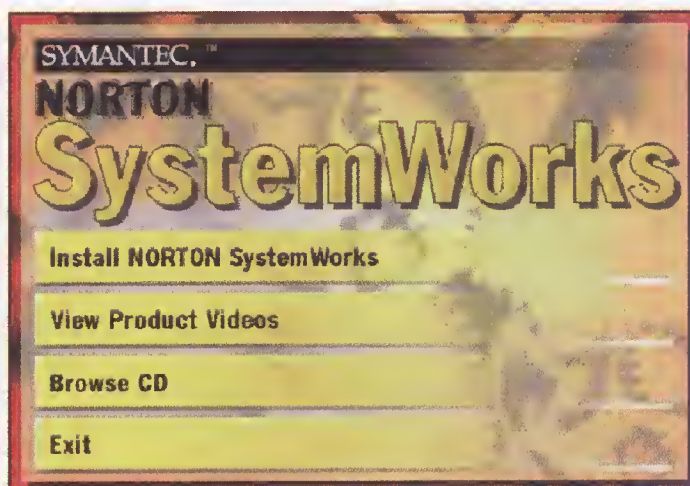
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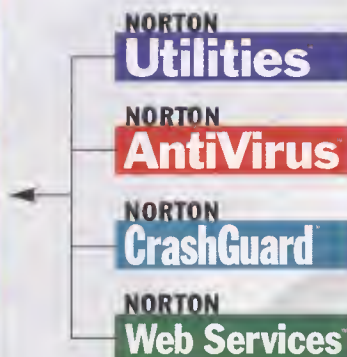
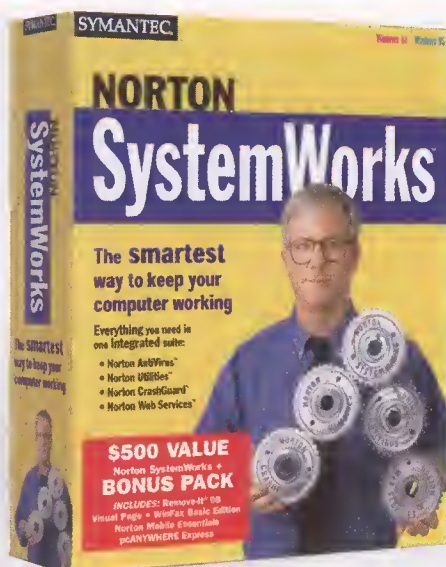
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Community Centers

On any evening in almost any town, a community center is where groups meet, mingle, and explore social issues. Webville is quickly spawning its own locales devoted to cultural and lifestyle groups.

From an initial pool of two dozen members in 1986, SeniorNet has grown to more than 25,000 members—people over 50 who are looking for friends and educational services online. iVillage.com is a popular site for the Ally McBeals of the world—young women who are trying to juggle careers, families, and/or single life. NetNoir aims to satisfy what it calls “black cultural values,” with related sections on books, politics, and entertainment.

Don't like these prefab communities? Make your own. In recent months, both Excite and Yahoo! have served up tools so that individuals can create their own community centers. In these clubs, someone with an interest in, say, Tom Waits can create a special clubhouse—a home page complete with message boards, chat, photos, and links. Different members can modify content on the same page. All that's missing from these clubhouses are the coffee and doughnuts.

Where to Roost?

Ultimately, choosing what kind of community to join comes down to a matter of personal taste. Do you want the intimate feel of a downtown scene or the sprawling reach of a home-page network? Should you stick with AOL or venture off to a niche-oriented community center?

For now, decisions are no-risk propositions. Online communities are free or dirt cheap, and there's no limit to how many you can join. Accordingly, a lot of surfers mix and match communities as if they were arranging tiles on a kitchen backsplash. But Webville is still being developed. If online communities were computer games, these would be the Pong years. As these services become even more accessible—and computers, cheaper—look for high-rises to start scraping the ether soon. Then we'll have to deal with a whole new set of interpersonal dynamics.

Marshall McLuhan, who had the first words on these matters, should also have the last: “The global village is a world in which you don't necessarily have harmony; you have extreme concern with everybody else's business and much involvement in everybody else's life. It's sort of an Ann Landers column written larger. And it doesn't necessarily mean harmony and peace and quiet, but it does mean huge involvement in everybody else's affairs. And so, the global village is as big as a planet and as small as the village post office.” So, too, Webville.

David Kushner is a contributing editor of Spin. He wrote “Faintheart” in our May 1998 issue.

WEBVILLE LINKS

COMMUNITY CENTERS

BIANCA www.bianca.com

Community for people who live alternative lifestyles

EXCITE COMMUNITIES

www.excite.com/comm/new

Clublike services from this portal

HOMESTEAD www.homestead.com

Free home pages and DIY community features

IVILLAGE.COM www.ivillage.com

Community for women

NETNOIR www.netnoir.com

Catering to African-American surfers

SENIORNET www.seniornet.com

More than 25,000 members over age 50

VIRTUAL JERUSALEM

www.jerusalem.com

Useful information for the Jewish community

XOOM www.xoom.com

Free home pages and a library of RealPlayer movies

YAHOO! CLUBS clubs.yahoo.com

DIY portal groups

THE MALL

THE ALYSSA MILAND WEB RING

www.webring.org/cgi-bin/webring?ring=lyssa;list

The place to start to find out all you ever wanted to know about the bewitching star of *Charmed*

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CHARGED www.charged.com

“Extreme leisure” e-zine

ECNO www.echonyc.com

New York's online salon

NYC NET www.nycnet.com

Site for New York's gay scene

THE WELL www.well.com

Venerable Bay Area community

WORD www.word.com

Cultural commentary, with a sense of humor

DOWNTOWN

THE 'BURBS

COMPUSERVE www.compuserve.com

Yes, it still exists (within the AOL empire, of course)

EARTHLINK www.earthlink.net

5-year-old ISP, includes 6 megabytes of Web-server space for members

GEOCITIES www.geocities.com

2 million members on this popular, free-home-page service

THEGLOBE.COM www.theglobe.com

1.7 million members making home pages, including many small businesses

MINDSPRING www.mindspring.net

Kinder, gentler ISP

PRIDDY www.prodigy.com

One of the first commercial online services now offers Net access

ON CAMPUS

BOLT www.bolt.com

Teen community, with message boards and chat

THE STUDENT CENTER

studentcenter.infomall.org

Free e-mail, home-page, and alumni-tracking services

TRIPPO www.tripod.com

This Gen-X home-page service features Pods of discussion groups

THE BEST OF

EXTREEMELY



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www.hooked.net/~toom/pbhb/pbhb.html

What's fun about the Web is that anyone can be a publisher—and sometimes it feels as if everyone is. For three years now, the *Yahoo! Internet Life* Web site (www.yil.com) has taken a weekly peek at some of the Web's most...well, tightly focused sites. Not necessarily weird, not necessarily wacky, they're *extreemely* specialized. Here are some of the best, as compiled by Angela Gunn.

Illustrations by Mitch Greenblatt

Amazing Artifacts

In Search of the Perfect Cupholder

www.ford.com/magazine/1-3cupholder.html

Tamagotchi Surgery

www.geocities.com/TimesSquare/Lair/1544

The Really Big Ugly Green Car That Was Affectionately Known as Perot

www.owl.net.rice.edu/~darin/perot.html

Call of the Doughnuts!

www.elliskaiser.com/doughnuts



Modern Moist
Towelette Collecting
members.aol.com/MoistTwl

Celebrity Spotlight

Female Celebrity Smoking List

www.cs.brown.edu/~lsh/asfs

The Simpsons vs. Smoking

www.snpp.com/guides/smoking.simpsons.html

Driveways of the Rich & Famous

www.driveways.com

The Singing Beatles Bubble Gum Wrappers

www.timtv.com/beatles.html

The Celebrity Atheist List

www.primenet.com/~lippard/atheistcelebs

Curious Characters

Confessions of a "Wash-Me" Finger Scribbler

action.simplenet.com/confessions/washme.htm

The Internet Squeegee Guy

www.website1.com/squeegee

Just Who Are You and What Makes You Think That You Are an Authority on Legal Prostitution in Nevada?

www.gppays.com/Bashful/OLD_FAQ/fq02p02.html

The Evil Geniuses for a Better Tomorrow

weber.u.washington.edu/~dalebone/eg.html

Odes to Edibles

Fun with Grapes: A Case Study

www.sci.tamucc.edu/~pmichaud/grape

The Pickle Preservation Society

www.ithaca.edu/orgs/pickle/pickle1/pickleweb.html

The Shrine to Toast

www.teleport.com/~cramsay/shrine.html

Cat Food...

www.neosoft.com/stealth/catfood

Games People Play

Probabilities in the Game of Monopoly

www.teleport.com/~tcollins/monopoly.shtml

Gallery of Ill-Fitting Pants

www.geocities.com/SoHo/Gallery/4905/pants.html



Dave's List of Words That Are Fun to Say

members.tripod.com/~DeathInPlaid/list.html

Decapitate an Angel

www.halcyon.com/maelstrm/angel

The Page That Will Turn You into a Weeble

www.andrew.cmu.edu/~gmh/goldfish/weeble.html

Roller-Blading on Ritalin

www.c3f.com/bladerit.html

SPECIALIZED SITES

How to Make an Alien

www.trudang.com/autopsy/autopsy2.html



Eik Breeders Home Page
www.wapiti.net

The Jet Set

Flight Attendants & Other Snapshots
www.2m.meshnet.or.jp/~takuji-s

The Bureau of Atomic Tourism
www.oz.net/~chrisp/atomic.html

Erotica in Esperanto
esperanto.agoranet.be

How to Be Obnoxious in French
yoyo.cc.monash.edu.au/~mongoose/french

English-Romanian Dictionary of Equivalent Proverbs
info.utas.edu.au/docs/flonta/DP,1,1,95/dictionary.html

Woo-Woo Sites

Nazi Connections to the Occult
user.fastinet.net/kalagonis/index/other.htm

Astrological Jokes: On Tickling
www.aquarianage.org/lore/jokes/tickle.html

Swami Baxter's Psychic Lottery Number Generator
www.dancentury.com/lottery

101 Spells Not Worth Memorizing
www.pvv.ntnu.no/~leirbakk/adnd/101_spells.html

This is just the tip of the ESS iceberg. Stay up to date with our latest discoveries at
www.yil.com/specialized

Geek Love

Vintage Calculators
www.dotpoint.com/xnumber/vintage.htm

Laundry: A Quantum Mechanical Approach
www.swcp.com/~breardon/quantum.html

Subliminal Messages in Windows 95?
www.tcp.ca/gsb/PC/Win95-subliminals.html

About the @ Sign
www.student.nada.kth.se/~f96-lla/@.html

Helpful Hints

How to Choose a Quality Telescope for Under \$500.00
www.eecs.uic.edu/~dlent/btel.html

Do Sports Bras Prevent Sagging Breasts?
www.netasia.net/users/truehealth/Bra.htm

The Illustrated Guide to Breaking Your Computer
members.aol.com/spoons1000/break



99 Ways to Open a Beer Bottle Without a Bottle Opener
www.inch.com/~brett

The Sheep Brain Dissection Guide
academic.uofs.edu/departments/psych/sheep

The Internet's First Online Pregnancy Test
www.fosml.com/pregnant

History on Parade

A Digital Catalogue of Watermarks and Type Ornaments Used by William Stansby in the Printing of The Workes of Benjamin Jonson (London: 1616)
jefferson.village.virginia.edu/gants

The Ordnance Shop Historical Events Calendar
www.ordnance.org/historic.htm

18th Century Pennsylvania German Nicknames
www.kalglo.com/nickname.htm

Middle Finger of Galileo's Right Hand
galileo.imss.firenze.it/museo/4/eiv10.html

Occupational Observations

National Legal Video Association
www.nlva.com

Homicide: Life on the Street: Scopolamine
scienceweb.dao.nrc.ca/tv/shorthomicide.html

Isleham Carrot Growers Limited
ds.dial.pipex.com/icg.ltd

Police Association of South Australia
www.pasa.asn.au

The Visiting Fireman
www.execpc.com/~vf

Retro Hair Styling

www.geocities.com/Wellesley/2457



Our Animal Friends

Adoptable Orphaned Kittens and Cats Need Homes (San Jose, CA)
www.geocities.com/Heartland/Flats/2707

Cryogenic Processing of Bats
worthinc.com/cyro.html

Sign Language Communication with Elephants
www.dolphinsociety.org/4.index.htm

Interspecies Telepathic Communication
www.CyberArk.com/animal/telepath.htm

block that click!





With the Web, the losers get lucky sometimes. Just ask this long-suffering Redskins fan

B Y B I L G E E B I R I

Well, the National Football League

playoffs are here, and the smell of pigskin in the air is more pungent than ever. But some of us are not celebrating. Some of us are mourning, wincing every time we hear the Fox NFL theme song, wearing disguises whenever we venture into sports bars. Some of us, you see, are Washington Redskins fans.

The Redskins, once made mighty by the likes of John Riggins and Joe Theismann, missed the playoffs again, this time by a lot. As a die-hard Skins supporter, I was enormously upset. But I wasn't exactly surprised. Even before midseason, "Hail to the Redskins" was already sounding like "The Turkish Song of the Damned," and Skins game highlights were more apt to turn up on the History Channel than on ESPN.

So halfway through the season, I decided to jump ship. Or rather, to jump off the old ship and onto a new one. I decided to follow the Redskins online. *Only* online. Why? For one thing, I was running out of options. Television didn't care about my beleaguered team, the newspapers seemed jaded, and radio—well, radio's never done much for me. I figured that on the Web, I'd at least find some interest. (In a world where an AltaVista search on "El DeBarge" delivers 472 site matches, *somebody* must be covering the Skins online.) Furthermore, the Web doesn't smirk at you the way those heartless *SportsCenter* announcers do. And finally, as Ollie North once said, I thought it was a neat idea.

My first stop was **REDSKINS**, the team's official Web site. Official sites are a kind of heaven for blindly loyal fans, packed as they are with propaganda, merchandise, and downloadable pictures of cheerleaders. Some official sites do break this mold, such as the Miami Dolphins' **DOLPHINS ENDZONE**, which includes articles that are—*gasp!*—critical of the Fins. (But then again, the Fins haven't been blown off the field by everybody they've played.) The mood at the Skins site, full of feigned optimism, reminds you in a way of the last weeks of Mike Dukakis's presidential campaign: There's a graphics-heavy, happy façade of colorful memorabilia; there is a press release about

the impending contest; and, yes, there are Redskinettes. There's even a feature that allows visitors to see live pictures of fans in Jack Kent Cooke Stadium during home games. But why would I want to see other fans? I'm just as irate and depressed as they are. Hell, I'm online—I'm *more* depressed than they are! In the end, the official Redskins site, much like the official Redskins team, leaves much to be desired. Still, it's nice to know that, if I really want to, I can watch incurably Pollyanna-ish video previews of all their various losses this season.

The hopeless idealism of the official site was even more apparent when I compared it with the Redskins coverage at **THE WASHINGTON POST**'s site, where journalists griped in telegraphic prose, or in Usenet's alt.sports.football.pro.wash-redskins, where fans griped in Paleolithic prose. But at times you need reassurance that the nation still acknowledges the Skins' existence. This is where the major sports sites come in.

Want to ask ESPN commentator and ex-Skin Theismann how the team can reverse its downturn, or even how it felt to have his leg snapped like a twig on national television? Go right ahead. Theismann is in attendance every Sunday on **ESPN.COM**, which collaborates with **NFL.COM** to furnish fans—even Skins fans—with a gold mine of chat. Every Tuesday, check out the well-designed but goofily named **Q.B. CLUB** Cyberspace Showdown, which brings in a featured player each week. And if you need to prep for making excuses about why your favorite team's starting quarterback was sacked seven times on Sunday, check out ESPN's Injury Report every Thursday, where analyst Steve Cohen gives you the lowdown.

You might assume that these live chats are just another excuse for partisan fans to lob insults at other partisan fans. Before I paid them a visit, that's how I felt. But the level of discussion in most of these chats is refreshingly in-depth, especially compared with the brief, blurb-heavy interviews and commentary you get on TV. Of course, if you're tired of substance, Fox Sports's **ALL MADDEN** page provides you with images of the Madden Cruiser, a "mobile command center" that sports commentator John Madden is driving around the country. It can also provide you with

NFL PHOTOS

The Road to the Super Bowl

Following the playoffs online

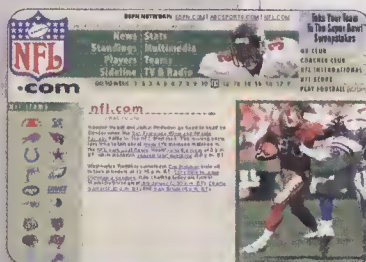
Watching the National Football League's powerhouses (and, occasionally, its underdogs) as they leap, sprint, and tackle their way to the Big Game can be just as exciting as the final battle itself. And this year, football fans with nothing better to do on Sunday—including the Washington Redskins themselves—will be able to follow the playoffs from the privacy of their own home computers.

NFL.com's GameDay Live gives you a floating, constantly updated window with everything you need: a graphic that displays field position, the length of the current drive, and the last play, along with well-organized, up-to-date stats. But heavy site traffic may result in long load times. [www.nfl.com]

Fox Sports's GameTracker loads more quickly than GameDay Live, though it displays many of the same features. But it's not as well organized and may leave you scrambling to find the right numbers at crucial moments. [www.foxsports.com]

CNN/SI's NFL LiveCast loads extremely quickly, in part because it offers only limited info. But you'll have to do some extra browsing to get any other statistics or previous plays. [www.cnn.com]


CBS SportsLine features all the hard-core stats and updated plays—and an animated game for you to watch during the real contest. To benefit from it, though, you need a high-speed connection. [www.sportsline.com]



a link to Madden's new cookbook at **BARNESANDNOBLE.COM**. When he's not too busy piloting the mobile command center and cooking, Madden also furnishes such sparkling insights as, "It's tough to learn to play quarterback in this league, because it's so hard." If this is more your speed, remember that Madden also answers fan questions every Wednesday at 9 p.m. Eastern on **YAHOO! CHAT**.

Interactivity among coaches, players, commentators, and fans is certainly one area where online football has made good on its promises. But live game coverage is another. The importance of this feature for the displaced fan can't be understated, especially if your team is truly bad and isn't generating national interest. Anything beats breathlessly watching CNN's *Headline News* sports ticker, and most of the major sports sites feature an applet that lets you follow each game through statistics, graphics, and updated play-by-plays. Perhaps the most notable of these is **CBS SPORTSLINE**, which not only gives you acres of stats and continuous updates but also provides a crudely animated version of the game for you to enjoy (if you can load it, of course). Though viewing these simulations feels like watching someone else play Nintendo, they are invaluable for following games online. And besides, the crudely animated Redskins evidence a grace and style conspicuously absent from their real-life counterparts.

In addition, crude animations aren't the worst thing in the world, especially when you consider the alternative. As online multimedia technology advances, few sites will be able to resist the temptation to overload their pages with video clips, superfluous animations, and "gee-whiz" graphics links to celebrity vanity pages. Small video and audio clips can certainly be fun and informative, but there's a point of no return—roughly the same point at which online football becomes a Super Bowl halftime show packed with VRML tours of the Madden Cruiser.

But getting back to the Redskins (to be honest, I had almost forgotten them myself). Following my troubled, beloved Skins online when most of the sports world had turned its back on them showed me just how useful the Web can be. And it will no doubt prove more useful in the off-season, when message boards and team pages will buzz with new transactions and changes. As for the playoffs, I'll probably watch them on TV. But who knows? Maybe the inane color commentary and the mind-numbing play-by-plays will send me back to the more sober, just-the-facts world of NFL.com's **GAMEDAY LIVE** or the NFL Livecasts on **CNN/SI**. 

Bilge Ebiri is a New York-based writer whose article "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Browser" ran in our December issue.

Crying Foul!

Wired football penalties

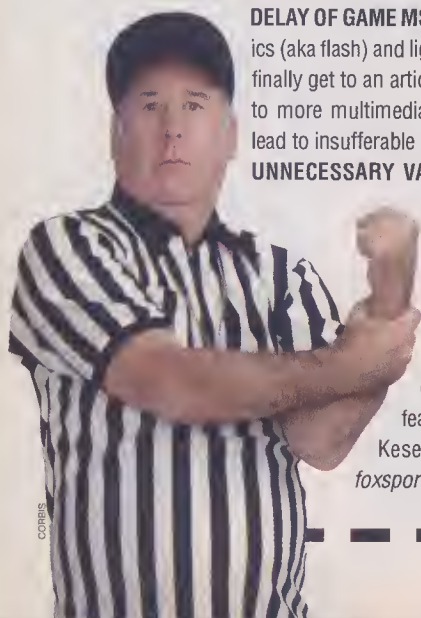
ROUGHING THE SURFER Fox Sports's frame-heavy Web site will wreak havoc with your bookmarking and bog down your surfing. The fact that frames are generally messy and annoying is pretty much common knowledge by now. Should someone tell Fox? [www.foxsports.com]

DELAY OF GAME MSNBC.com's site is heavy on graphics (aka flash) and light on text (aka content). When you finally get to an article, it's loaded down with ads, links to more multimedia, and large images—all of which lead to insufferable load times. [www.msnbc.com]

UNNECESSARY VAGUENESS The Madden Cruiser

home page on Fox Sports's All-Madden site has many photos of the vehicle's various sections, including its living and work areas.

But the one thing it doesn't reveal is what prompted Madden to criss-cross the nation in a big bus. Simple fear of flying? Has he been reading Kesey? We may never know. [www.foxsports.com/football/madden/cruiser]



SITES IN THIS STORY

REDSKINS www.redskins.com • DOLPHINS ENDZONE www.dolphinsendzone.com
 THE WASHINGTON POST www.washingtonpost.com
 ESPN.COM www.espn.com • NFL.COM www.nfl.com
 Q.B. CLUB www.nfl.com/qbclub
 ALL MADDEN www.foxsports.com/football/madden
 BARNESANDNOBLE.COM www.barnesandnoble.com
 YAHOO! CHAT chat.yahoo.com • CBS SPORTSLINE www.sportsline.com
 GAMEDAY LIVE www.nfl.com • CNN/SI www.cnn.com



OCEANS, MOUNTAINS, FORESTS, **FEAR.**
WHICH DO YOU **CONQUER** FIRST?

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incredibly USEFUL sites™

FIX YOUR VCR

When you hear the unsettling sound of videotape crunching off its spools, consult VCR Repair Instruction before hitting the



dreaded authorized repair center. Removing Cassettes That Won't Eject is just one of the pleasingly practical sections in this tutorial, which is organized by brand name and model number. Each model's rap sheet includes typical snags you may encounter with it and details solutions for the easier problems. And if you're brave enough to disassemble your VCR, the listings include drawings of key internal parts. You won't be quitting your day job with all this newfound knowledge, but you may save a few dollars.

www.fixer.com/dbase

WATCH YOUR WEIGHT

Though *Ally McBeal* star Calista Flockhart has taken some flak for being too thin,

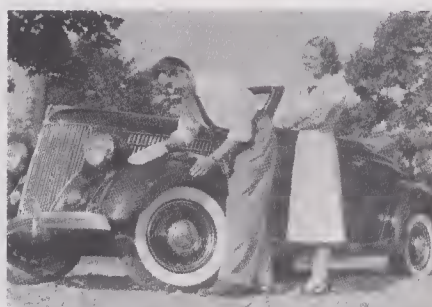
many of us could actually stand to lose a few pounds after all that holiday eating. But how much should you weigh, and what should you eat to achieve this goal? Enter your age, gender, activity level, and body measurements (the more specific, the better) into the Healthy Body Calculator, and it will quickly report back your ideal weight range, your body-frame size, and your body-mass index. And since you are what you eat, the site also shares some nutritional wisdom to supplement all those vital statistics.

www.dietitian.com/ibw/ibw.html



COPE WITH CAR DEALERS

Yes, it's 1999, but some car salesmen still think the fairer sex is better seen than heard on the showroom floor. Before combat-



ing such rubes, let the Woman Motorist New Car Buying Handbook be your guide to maintaining your sanity—and cash—as it helps you pick the right car for your particular lifestyle and budget. It also preps you on such tactics as the “10-minute phone negotiation,” in *Dealing with Dealers: Negotiating a New-Car Purchase*; and on how to go beyond tire kicking, with the Test Drive checklist. Ride, Sally, ride. www.womanmotorist.com/handbook/handbook.shtml

ASSESS YOUR SALARY LEVEL

No matter what your job, it has an established value. Look for it at The Salary Zone's Salary Search. Find comparable salaries based on job title, educational background, management responsibilities, and location. And if you don't like what you find (that is, if you learn that you're making far less than the norm), you can

use this evidence as a way to convince your employer that it's time to give you—and possibly some of your colleagues—a raise. And who knows? Maybe you'll discover your inner Norma Rae.

Fee-based service.
www.ioma.com/zone

PICK THE RIGHT GADGET

Don't let some pushy electronics-superstore salesperson shove just any old digital camera or camcorder into your hands. Research your electronics investment first at the Active Buyer's Guide. Its intelligent decision-making tools help you pick the right make and model, based on such criteria as the item's cost, weight, and dimensions. Once you read the site's purchasing primers and answer some detailed questions, your work is done. In a matter of minutes, the Active Buyer's Guide suggests the product that best fits your needs. Though cameras and camcorders are the site's only offerings for now, more electronics categories are on the way. All of life's big choices should be so well orchestrated.

www.activebuyersguide.com

Each month, we gather all the sites we think offer wonderfully practical services

APPLY FOR A BUSINESS LOAN

Quicken Business CashFinder doesn't lend cash to businesses, but it can help point you toward those organizations that do. First, answer its seven quick questions about your business; CashFinder will retrieve information about the appropriate credit cards, credit lines, and other loans on offer (you may choose up to three services to which you'll apply). Using CashFinder's downloadable software, you can then fill out and print loan applications for the selected lenders. Your financial information stays secure because it's never transmitted online. Could this mean that, after all these years of hop-



ing, wishing, and waiting, your dream of opening the Scotch-Tape Store may come true?

www.cashfinder.com

CURE THE MOVING BLUES

Has the prospect of moving again made you want to assume the fetal position and forget all about it? Let The AllApartments Resource Center take the edge off this modern-day trauma. Looking for a new town? Pick a place based on criteria from the available records, and this site will tell you how much it will cost to move there. You'll also find tips on how to pack, how to find a mover, how to hold a yard sale, and how to understand your new lease. Even after you're all moved in, there's no need to flounder aimlessly: There's also information here on how to set up utilities, handle your car's registration and licensing, and register to vote. Now Mom can finally stop making lists for you.

www.moversresource.com

UNEARTH RAW MEDICAL FACTS

Though some may find hardcore medical facts unsettling, patients who are more inquisitive want as many details as possible on their multisyllabic conditions. If you're counted among the curious, consult CompuServe's Medical Professional Database. This repository of more than 3,500 journals from over 70 countries incorporates the records of the



National Library of Medicine's Medline, Aidsline, Cancerlit, and HealthSTAR databases. Search the journals by title, author, or journal name and year, as well as by words found in the article abstracts. Then relax, knowing that the "dyspepsia" your medication can cause is the clinical term for indigestion. **Fee-based service.**

CompuServe Go: **MEDIPRO**

HOW TO BE A PHILANTHROPIST

If the holiday season propelled you to new heights of generosity, GuideStar: The Donor's Guide to the Nonprofit Universe can help you figure out to whom you should keep writing those extra checks. Search its records by name, keyword, or geographic location to get the lowdown—including financials and contact information—on more than 600,000 charitable organizations. If you're new to charitable giving, its Philanthropy 101 section provides tips on how to give

(even if you don't have cash) and how to take tax deductions for those donations.

www.guidestar.org

FIND THE NO-FEE CASH MACHINE

Need money while traveling but don't want to pay those steep surcharges for using another bank's ATM? The Independent Bankers Association of



America offers a database of ATMs—searchable by city, state, or ZIP code—that will dole out cash without exacting service charges. The site covers 1,000 machines in 46 states, with more locations on the way.

www.ibaa.org

Send us news of your useful find! Write us at useful@zd.com. And be sure to check our past picks at www.incrediblyuseful.com



OLDWAY

BY DAVID SHEFF



NETWAY

Comparing the Tried-and-True with the Net-and-New

[PURCHASING VIAGRA]

OLD WAY

- 1 A friend confided that he had a long-standing problem with erectile dysfunction (nearly 70, he attributed it to age) and said he was intrigued by all the talk about Viagra. He also said he had heard that one could get the stuff over the Internet, and asked if I'd help him do so. Having read Charles Pappas's column on the subject in last month's issue ["Prescription for Trouble," page 88], I was a bit wary, and agreed only on the condition that he visit a doctor, too.
- 2 The doctor conducted a lengthy physical examination, as well as an interview. He told my friend that, being generally cautious when prescribing medications, he also wanted to order a series of tests.
- 3 Three tests later, and with bills totaling nearly \$500, my friend was given a prescription for Viagra.
- 4 He filled the prescription at a local drugstore and headed home with the pills.

Total time elapsed

Three weeks for the exam and tests that led to the prescription, which was filled in 20 minutes

Comments

Some doctors are less cautious, but my friend came to trust this one.

WINNER

Old Way, if only for the peace of mind

NET WAY

- 1 A search for *Viagra* turned up lots of links—covering everything from serious discussion groups to a song parody meant to be sung to the tune of "Volare."
- 2 Soon found a number of online purveyors of the drug, including **EXPRESSMED** [www.viagra-express.com] and **THE PILL BOX PHARMACY** [www.thepillbox.com]. Explored both sites. Viagra Express asked a dozen or so medical questions, while the Pill Box asked only four.
- 3 Decided on the latter and placed an order. The charge was just over \$100 for 10 pills, plus \$85 for the "medical consultation."
- 4 A UPS package arrived within a week. Since I'd heard that some pills sold as Viagra aren't authentic, I suggested that my friend show them to his doctor, who confirmed that they were the real thing. The doctor also cautioned my friend about buying pharmaceuticals online.

Total time elapsed

9 minutes online and a week waiting for the pills to arrive

Comments

My friend said that, in retrospect, he was glad to have gone through the Old Way medical consultation and testing. He felt more comfortable knowing that the drug was appropriate for his situation. He was also happy to report, with a hint of embarrassment, "It really works!"



AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

SAVE
\$1⁰⁰

*Adult
Diapers*

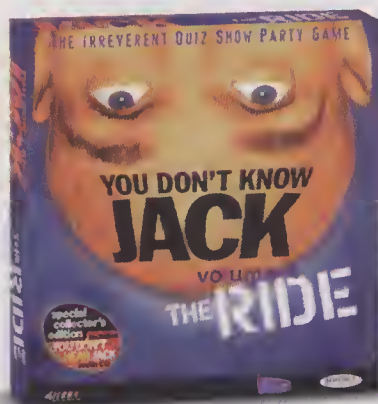
SAVE
\$1⁰⁰

*New "Niagara Strength" Adult Diapers provide the ultimate
in adult protection -- for those times when you just can't hold it in!*

This product has been found to be a helpful aid in the playing of the CD-ROM game YOU DON'T KNOW JACK®. Yes folks, now you can laugh all you want. The patented self-activated Liqui-Guard™ system absorbs the unsightly mess, holding it comfortably away from your skin. And now, with our new triple-action heavy-duty reservoir receptacle, you'll stay dry up to 6 games of YDKJ longer than with the other leading brand. Actual results may vary. Do not use in conjunction with fancy upholstery. Use only as directed. By the way, if you're reading this you have way too much time on your hands.



**A game this funny requires
a certain degree of preparation.**



Prepare to laugh hard. Really hard. The latest YOU DON'T KNOW JACK® mixes high culture with pop culture in a fast-paced, trouser-drenching CD-ROM game. It's JACK like never before. So be prepared to lose it. But be warned: appropriate attire is recommended.

The irreverent quiz show party game.

BERKELEY
SYSTEMS



SIERRA
attractions

[REPLACING A SPECIAL LIGHTBULB]

OLD WAY

- 1 The lightbulbs in a couple of hard-to-reach spots in our house had burned out. So that I wouldn't risk breaking my neck on a ladder more than once a decade or so, I decided to go for long-life replacements.
- 2 Stopped at a few local hardware and discount stores, but no luck.
- 3 Called some stores farther afield. None carried the bulbs I wanted.

Total time elapsed
3 hours on the phone and
in the car

Comments
I nearly gave up and bought
standard bulbs.

NET WAY

- 1 Searched for *bulbs* at **NETMARKET** [www.netmarket.com]. There was a long list of choices, including Eternity-brand "lifetime" bulbs. That sounded right to me.
- 2 At a total of \$12 plus shipping, the cost for four lightbulbs seemed pricey. Then I read this: "Guaranteed for 100 years of normal use—exactly 135,000 hours of actual use. Lasts as long as 180 standard bulbs." Suddenly, they seemed cheap.
- 3 After I placed an online order, the bulbs arrived in a week. I installed them and happily put the ladder away.



Total time elapsed
6 minutes surfing

Comments
Check back for a report in 2099.

WINNER

Net Way

[GETTING FIRST-AID ADVICE]

OLD WAY

- 1 Vacationing in Hawaii, I got caught on a reef while out swimming. As I was heading back to shore, I stepped into a hole—a hole filled with sea urchins.
- 2 My foot bristling with several dozen poisonous needles, I hobbled out of the water and made my way to a lifeguard. He suggested that I soak my foot in warm vinegar, and said there was nothing else to do.
- 3 Soaking and in enormous pain, I called the local emergency room. A nurse there agreed that there was nothing more to be done. "Hot vinegar may help dissolve the spikes," she said, and then warned: "Don't try to pull them out. They're so brittle that they just break off."
- 4 Too late. I'd found that out for myself.

Total time elapsed
30 minutes seeking advice

Comments
I won't describe a local surfer's
suggestion, other than to say that
he offered an alternative to vinegar.

NET WAY

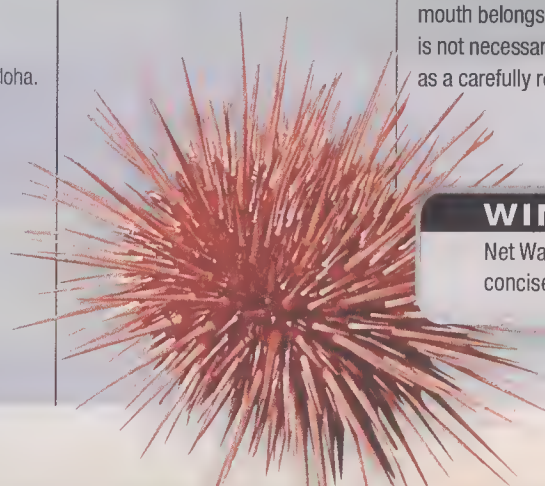
- 1 Homebound anyway, I had time to look around on the Net for some information about my new worst enemy. Came upon a recipe for **DEEP-FRIED PRAWNS FLAVORED WITH SEA URCHIN** [www.asahi.co.jp/cooking/menu/k961209E.html]. Revenge, however sweet, would have to wait.
- 2 Further surfing led me to the **LIFEGUARDS' HOME PAGE** [www.aloha.com/~lifeguards]. It listed treatments, taken from a book called *All Stings Considered*, for everything from octopus bites to Portuguese man-of-war stings. Under "Sea Urchin Punctures," the recommendation was to pull out any protruding spines and do nothing else unless there were signs of infection or such symptoms as vomiting and shortness of breath (in which case one should head to the nearest hospital). Vinegar, it said, is no help.
- 3 Thus informed, I abandoned the soaking regimen and limped to the nearest cocktail lounge for a mai tai.

Total time elapsed
4 minutes surfing

Comments
Word of mouth—even when the
mouth belongs to a professional—is
not necessarily as authoritative
as a carefully researched Web site.

WINNER

Net Way, for clear,
concise advice



believe in technology 



Call for Help,
weeknights, live @ 7pm EST

Y'know that little help icon on your computer? Now it's an entire TV network.

This is ZDTV.™ The new 24-hour television network devoted to computing, the Internet and all the possibilities. Lively, fast-paced, energetic shows that help you get the most out of your computer. Like "Call for Help,™" the call-in show that helps you with your computer problems, from loading software to the best way to get on the Internet. And then there's our web site, www.zdtv.com, where you can get breaking computer news, in-depth analysis, and live chat with the show hosts. So watch ZDTV. It's the icon of the future of television.

**To request ZDTV, call your cable or satellite company or go to
www.zdtv.com/getzdtv.**



Television About Computing™



You can watch ZDTV on DIRECTV (channel 273) and DISH Network (channel 191).

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Site- reviews

Each month we send experts in various fields to seek out the best the Web has to offer. But first, a quick look at what's hot this month

new notable & fun!

RE.RE.RE.LAUNCH

MICROSOFT SIDEWALK. The once hipper-than-thou urban entertainment guide now caters as well to the more visceral American pursuits of getting and spending, with yellow pages and various buyer's guides taking center stage.
www.sidewalk.com

HBO. Curious couch potatoes may leave their recliners for good once they get a look at all the "deep content" here about what's showing on HBO "right now."
www.hbo.com

INTERNET MOVIE DATABASE. This gold mine for cineasts assumes a more charming visage, with enhanced access and search tools to boot. (See "Best of the Best," No. 55.)
www.imdb.com

TURNER CLASSIC MOVIES. Much the way Nick at Nite resuscitates tired yet lovable TV shows, this revamped companion to Turner's movie network reexamines classics from every possible angle, with such features as This Day in History and Between the Scenes.
tcm.turner.com

FEED. The edgy literary zine is now "FEED 4.0." Recent book/film/CD reviews reside here alongside profiles of ordinary people in quirky jobs; highbrow essays about sex, love, and tattoos; and other alternative content. (See "Best of the Best," No. 70.)
www.feedmag.com

THE NEW YORK TIMES LEARNING NETWORK. This resource for sixth- through twelfth-graders, teachers, and parents adds value to the day's news with glossaries, geographical data, and news-related lesson plans.
www.nytimes.com/learning

NEWS & REFERENCE

TIME DIGITAL. The Web version of *Time's* technology supplement also replaces Pathfinder's Netly News site. Better reflecting *Digital's* raison d'être, it's an online guide to gadgets and daily tech news.
cgi.pathfinder.com/time/digital

THE :30 SECOND CANDIDATE. Learn about the history of political advertising on television, from the first known commercials (beamed out by Connecticut Senator William Benton's campaign in 1950) to the latest congressional slurfest.
www.pbs.org/30secondcandidate

IT'S ENTERTAINMENT

OPRAH.COM. Read health and fitness tips, book picks, and other wisdom from this one-woman media empire. How *did* the Web ever survive without her?
www.oprah.com

ROLLING STONE NETWORK. America's most prominent music magazine teams up with RealNetworks to produce an original radio station for the Web. Genre-specific shows include those devoted to hip-hop, techno, and classic rock.
www.rollingstone.com



Rolling Stone Network uses RealNetworks' audio smarts to bring its Web-only radio station online.

DAWSON'S DESKTOP. Snoo into Dawson Leery's bookmarks, read his private journal, and get the scoop on possible new characters and plots for the TV show at this *Dawson's Creek* lair. Requires version 4.0 of Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer.
www.dawsonscreek.com

MARILYN MANSON. The industrial-turned-glam rocker's Goth-inspired fun house serves up chat, videos, lyrics, and his original artwork. Manson also gives the nod here to his favorite fan-built sites.
www.marilynmanson.net

RODSTEWARTLIVE.COM. The rock star and soccer buff weighs in with this slow-loading compendium of tour dates, souvenirs, photos, and even the occasional concert Webcast. (See "Top of the Net," p. 82.)
www.rodstewartlive.com

KIDS STUFF

CARTOONNETWORK.COM. Catch up on your cartoon news and play such games as Fred's Bowling Nightmare at the cable network's new online home. It's where you can also hear cartoon cocreator Joe Barbera comment on such Hanna-Barbera classics as *The Jetsons* and *Scooby-Doo*.
www.cartoonnetwork.com



CartoonNetwork.com goes back to the drawing board with its look at how cartoons are created.

SESAME STREET MAKE-A-STORY. Log on to this colorful Shockwave game that lets you create a tale along with your kids. Place Grover on the beach or on the golf course, among other venues, and dress him up using a variety of accessories.
www.ctw.org/preschool/makeastory/ss/home

SPORTS & LEISURE

CHARGED. One of the Web's dearly departed lifestyle zines returns, resuming its pursuit of "extreme leisure" through the areas of travel, sports, media, food, drink, and sex. We liked the New York strip-club tour and the breakdancing

lessons from *What's Happening* alumnus Fred "Rerun" Berry.
www.charged.com

LITERARY TRAVELER. What can you see at Walden Pond these days? "The Nature of New England" is just one of the literary travelogues profiled on this seasonal guide to American wanderings, which also recently featured "Home in the South."
www.literarytraveler.com

SOCCERONLINE. There's a reason why "soccer moms" have become a demographic cliché: There are a lot of them. Soccer coaches and parents can use this site's templates to create a Web home for posting game schedules, practice locations, and even discussions about their team's progress.
www.socceronline.com

NATIONAL SPECTATORS ASSOCIATION. Players have their organizations—so why shouldn't fans? This nonprofit group conducts opinion polls, ranks team owners and leagues, coordinates fan e-mails to players, and maintains an online Poor Sports Hall of Shame.
www.nsa.com

MISC. NEAT

YOU CAN ZING. This site accepts surfers' favorite snapshots for posting, and groups them by such themes as "What did you do this summer?" Editors at the site select 25 new submissions—GIFs or JPEGs only, please—each week for publication.
www.zing.com/youcanzing

BOTTOM UP: THE MAGAZINE FOR THE HIGH-TECH START-UP. High-tech start-ups fail three times more often than do traditional businesses, so entrepreneurs would do well to heed some of the expert tips found here.
www.bottom-up.com

SHOPEONLINE.COM. E! Online unveils an eclectic source for movie-inspired merchandise, ranging from the prosaic (T-shirts) to the esoteric (authentic director's chairs).
shop.eonline.com

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best of the best sites 98



We picked 98 category winners for 1998.

As most would agree, not every site on the Web is a champion. But those that are deserve the occasional parade. This is that parade.

We've been reviewing all year, not just in the back of the magazine, but in our features and our special sections. In this issue, we step

back, take another look, and march out the best of the best, organized into task-oriented categories. The best 98 for '98.

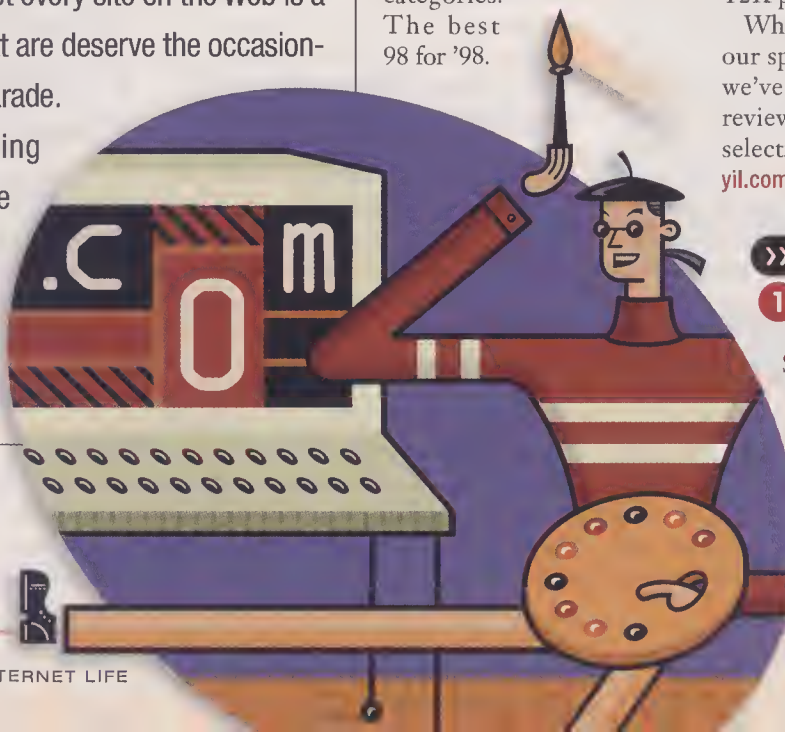
And yes, we'll pick 99 for '99. As for the year after that, well, everyone's got their own Y2K problem. That's ours.

When you're finished, visit our special supersite, where we've collected all these site reviews so you can reach any selection with a single click: yil.com/best98.

» ARTS

1 BEST HUMANITIES LIBRARY

Sponsored by computer-industry giant Sun Microsystems Inc., the **Berkeley Digital Library SunSITE** houses a vast array of online text and image collections, including his-



Compiled by Dina Gan
Illustrations by Bob Daly

torical documents, classic literature, and great works of art. You can also link to the separate holdings of the 57 other SunSITE servers at educational institutions all over the world—from the digital archive of Paul Cézanne paintings at the University of North Carolina's WebMuseum to an assortment of Croatian-authored shareware at the University of Zagreb. sunsite.berkeley.edu

2 BEST RESEARCH MUSEUM

Sheer depth and breadth are what give the **Smithsonian Institution's** site its unique utility and appeal. Shuttle off to any of the Smithsonian's 16 museums—such as the National Air & Space Museum, the National Museum of Natural History, the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of Asian art, and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, with its Calders, Giacomettis, and other modern offerings—without having to travel to Washington and risk being harangued by roving bands of lobbyists. The frames-style site also has a subject index, so you can jump from, say, American Inventors and Innovations directly to Paleobiology. www.si.edu

3 BEST EFFORT TO PRESERVE GREAT BOOKS

Project Gutenberg is the world-famous effort to preserve the world's greatest literature in electronic form. Chosen on the basis of how useful they are to the general public, the e-texts are archived in "plain vanilla" ASCII so that the entire library can be searched by even the least sophisticated of software programs. More than 1,500 works are currently available,



encompassing everything from old favorites (*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Aesop's fables, *Moby Dick*) to religious and reference tomes (the Bible, *Roget's Thesaurus*).

www.gutenberg.net

4 BEST CULTURAL-EVENTS DIRECTORY

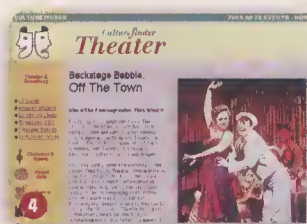
CultureFinder is highbrow in tone (movies are called "films" here) and ambitious in scope. You'll find the scoop on classical music, opera, visual arts, dance, theater, and Broadway shows, with database listings culled from the seasonal schedules of more than 1,500 arts organizations. Type in the name of your city, and you'll get a list of arts events happening within any time frame you select. You can also use advanced search options to narrow the results to a specific category.

www.culturefinder.com

>> CAREER

6 BEST RÉSUMÉ-POSTING BOARD

Of all the online employment databases, the **Monster Board** is the most fun and painless way to attack the scary prospect of hunting for



a job. Pinpoint who's hiring by selecting a location, choosing a category (anything from Accounting to Transportation), and entering a keyword or two. Alternatively, you might read a few articles from the career-advice department, deposit your electronic CV in the résumé bank, and wait for employers to bombard you

with offers. The service, which boasts more than 50,000 job listings, is free for job seekers; employers pay a price to extract your contact information.

www.monster.com

7 BEST GUIDE TO JOB-HUNTING SITES

Guest reviewer Richard N. Bolles (the author of *What Color Is Your Parachute?*) called the **Riley Guide** "hands down, the best guide to job-hunting sites on the Internet." In this up-to-date index, Margaret F. Dikel (née Riley) does an excellent job herself of selecting the richest and most useful of these sites and then organizing them by category, from online résumé databases to sites for specific occupational areas. Resources are available for job seekers, recruiters, and employers.

www.dbm.com/jobguide

spotlight on...

5 BEST MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

The New York-based **Dia Center for the Arts** has long been a showcase for extraordinary contemporary art that, lacking the support of more-conventional museums, might otherwise go unseen. In 1995 Dia began a series of Web-specific artists' projects, and you can visit them all here, from Kristin Lucas's "waiting rooms for the Internet" to Komar and Melamid's interactive survey on the world's "Most Wanted Paintings."

www.diacenter.org



8 BEST WAY TO RESEARCH POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS

The free company profiles at **Hoover's Online** contain basic data for more than 13,500 U.S. and foreign businesses. You can quickly find out who the key people are, how well the firm is doing financially, and what newsworthy things it has accomplished lately—with links to relevant Web articles gathered from the business media. **ALSO:** For an insider's look at some of the nation's larger corporations, order a detailed profile from **Vault Reports**, which has surveyed thousands of actual employees. The reports aren't free, but the cost (\$9.50 to \$35) may be tax-deductible as a job-search expense. www.hoovers.com
www.jobvault.com

9 BEST GUIDE TO STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Ever wonder if you've got the mettle to be the boss? The online home of the **Small Business Administration** has a Startup Kit with a walk-through of each step on the road to running your own show, from forming the initial business plan to finding the money you need in order to realize your dream. And, of course, there are links to every loan program the SBA has to offer. The information is presented with an eye to the legal and financial concerns of which every would-be entrepreneur should be aware. www.sbaonline.sba.gov

>> CITY GUIDES

10 BEST CITY-GUIDE NETWORK Though **Microsoft Network's**

Sidewalk sites seem to have lagged in their duty to provide coverage of the metropolitan scene, you can still rely on **Yahoo! Metros** to connect you to all that's brewing on the local front. Find one-click access to your region's weather and news headlines, plus a full range of categorized sites for entertainment, business, and travel listings. Whether you're an urban newbie or a long-time native, you'll find yourself getting turned on to more than

abundance of links to news, business, and recreational sites run by the natives. www.sidewalk.com
www.yahoo.com/promotions/metros
www.citysearch.com

>> COMMUNITY

11 BEST GAY GLOBAL VILLAGE **PlanetOut** is the biggest and best community of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transsexual people online. There are channels for news, travel, per-

thousands of seniors logging on monthly to chat about everything from hobbies to health problems. The non-profit organization sponsors online book clubs and a newsletter, and hosts centers for helping seniors learn to make the most of technology. As one member puts it, "I'll never grow old, thanks to my computer." **ALSO:** For a bit more personality and a hipper outlook, try **ThirdAge**. www.seniornet.org
[or AOL Keyword: *SeniorNet*]
www.thirdage.com

13 BEST WOMEN'S NETWORK

As host to Beatrice's Web Guide, Women's Wire, Prevention's Healthy Ideas, Crayola FamilyPlay, and Money-Mode (with content provided by Bloomberg), **Women.com** caters to the many-faceted needs of today's modern, online woman. With such experts as NBC correspondent Soledad O'Brien or financial author Nancy Dunnan, you can get smart advice on any topic, from cars and careers to sex and relationships. You can also commune with fellow females (no pun intended) through the numerous chat rooms and discussion boards. www.women.com

>> COMPUTING

14 BEST COMPUTER CONSUMER NETWORK

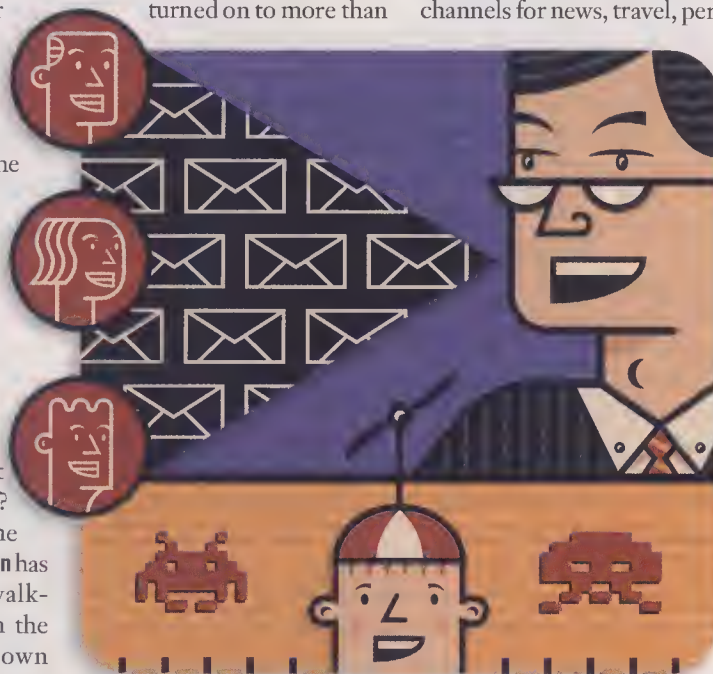
You can't go wrong with either **CNET** or **ZDNet**. The former, whose mission is to help consumers make the most of their computers, has special reports on such topics as finding the best free e-mail, the most irresistible high-tech gadget, or the ultimate Internet service provider. It also hosts many

sonal finance, shopping, entertainment, and activism. The site also sponsors lots of live events—such as the popular *Dr. Ruthless* radio program, hosted by a Seattle sexologist—along with copious chats and message boards for everyone from gay seniors to teens who are just coming out. www.planetout.com

12 BEST SENIOR COMMUNITY

SeniorNet is a positive, supportive community for the golden-oldies set, with tens of

just the usual stuff found in your average free city weekly, like the New York Pizza Police or the SimplyHip guide to Silicon Valley. Major cities covered include Atlanta; Austin, Texas; Boston; Chicago; Dallas/Fort Worth; Washington, D.C.; Los Angeles; Miami; New York; San Francisco; Seattle; and the Twin Cities. But you can also just enter your ZIP code and access the sites relevant to your proximity. **ALSO:** **CitySearch** offers an



subsites with easy-to-remember URLs (download.com, computers.com, builder.com) so you can find the best software, buy the most suitable desktop, or get a leg up on developing your Web site. ZDNet, run by our parent company, is a massive hub site for all manner of computer news and views, and plays host to the online counterparts of such publications as *PC Magazine*, *Computer Shopper*, *FamilyPC*, and, of course, *Y-Life*. Aside from scores upon scores of product reviews—which have made ZDNet's benchmark testing labs the industry standard—you'll find hardware-shopping comparisons, free downloads, interactive investing, and site-surfing guides, as well as lots of smart tips for consumers, Web developers, small-business owners, and industry professionals.

www.cnet.com
www.zdnet.com

15 BEST TIPS AND TRICKS

All users of Windows, regardless of flavor—95, 98, NT, or CE—will find **WinFiles.com** an invaluable source for tips, tricks, and how-tos. There are also specific sections for bugs and fixes and for those frequently troublesome Windows drivers. **ALSO:** Macintosh users should visit the **MacFixIt** site daily for late-breaking news and extensive coverage on troubleshooting Macintosh products.

winfiles.com
www.macfixit.com

» EDUCATION

17 BEST COLLEGE AND CAREER SITE

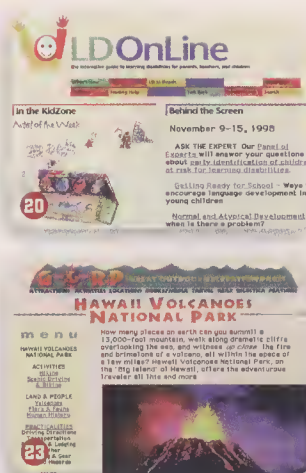
The site called **.edu** is home to the venerable college rat-

ings that appear in *U.S. News & World Report* each year, and they're here in all their interactive glory, along with career outlooks and occupational advice. In addition, there's a cool toolbox that will automatically perform such tasks as making point-by-point comparisons of four colleges or four financial-aid packages in one fell swoop. **ALSD: Peterson's** is another highly recommended stop for the higher-education bound.

www.usnews.com/usnews/edu
www.petersons.com

18 BEST TEST- PREPARATION SITE

In order to receive the schooling needed to become



a doctor, lawyer, or chief executive (or, in fact, merely to go to college or grad school at all), you'll have to pass some kind of standardized test. **Princeton Review Online** can help get you ready,

spotlight on...

16 BEST COMPUTER GAMES

It's all fun and games at **Happy Puppy**. You can buy new stuff for your Nintendo 64 or Sony PlayStation, download the latest and best PC and Mac demos and shareware—including *Tomb Raider 3* (pictured below)—or link to a free Web-based game that's playable online. Beyond the downloads and links, there are hints, cheats, job classifieds, chats, and a weekly newsletter—all of which keep the loyal gamers coming back. **ALSO:** For a more serious look at the game industry, complete with designer diaries, news, and reviews, head over to **GameSpot**. And there's plenty to play with at CNET's **Gamecenter.com**, too.

www.happypuppy.com
www.gamespot.com
www.gamecenter.com



with advice that goes beyond simply taking the publisher's own special review courses on such exams as the SAT, LSAT, and GRE.

www.review.com

19 BEST RATIONALE FOR GETTING THE KIDS ONLINE

Parents and teachers who still think the Web has little to offer beyond mindless entertainment should spend a few moments at **Teaching and Learning on the WWW**, which links to more than 640 sites demonstrating just how effective the Web can be as a learning tool. Search by subject or keyword to uncover such educational adventures as an online exploration of the inner workings of the automobile and a virtual journey to the center of the sun—plus all manner of academia in between.

www.mcli.dist.maricopa.edu/tl

20 BEST SPECIAL EDUCATION SITE

LD OnLine is a terrific resource for the parents and teachers of learning-disabled kids. Start with the ABCs of LD/ADD, which outlines several types of learning disabilities (for example, dyslexia, dyscalculia, and attention deficit disorder) and explains how to determine whether a child has one and what to do about it. The In-Depth section has informational writings from leading organizations and professionals in the field. Kids can hang out at the KidZone, which displays artwork, essays, and such poems as "Being L.D.," written by a learning-disabled 10-year-old.

www.ldonline.org

21 BEST CONSUMER GUIDE TO FITNESS

ALSO: For a slew of calculators that will determine your target heart rate, body-mass index, body-fat percentage, ideal weight, and nutritional needs, pay a visit to **Phys**, which also has articles culled from the health and fitness departments of such Condé Nast magazines as *Self* and *Allure*.

22 BEST FITNESS-SITE INDEX

epicurious

FOOD

STAY ON THE
Discovery
Channel

BROWSE RECIPES!
ADD COMMENTS
GET MENU!
MAKE A PERSONAL
RECIPE BOOK

Click here to begin the
free online new design file.

24
10 AM - 10 PM EST

Living
Dining



[www.primusweb.com/
fitnesspartner](http://www.primusweb.com/fitnesspartner)

23 BEST SITE FOR THE OUTDOORS ENTHUSIAST

www.gorp.com

>> FOOD**24 BEST RECIPES**

spotlight on...

25 BEST RESTAURANT SURVEYS

www.zagat.com



Meets West with Ming Tsai.
food.epicurious.com
www.foodtv.com

>> GOVERNMENT

26 BEST GOVERNMENT- INFORMATION SITE

Though it sounds like the title of the next dystopian John Carpenter film, **FedWorld** is actually a terrific link between the average citizen and that monolith known as the U.S. government. Access statistics from dozens of agencies, or search through their databases and publications. You can get everything from recent decisions by the Environmental Protection Agency to the latest U.S. Census reports. And if you've always dreamed of working in the public sector, you can even search the listings for government jobs. **ALSO:** **Thomas** is the place to go to find

out the status of pending bills, read the *Congressional Record*, learn how laws are made, peruse such historical documents as the *Federalist Papers*, and more.

www.fedworld.gov
thomas.loc.gov

» HEALTH

27 BEST OVERALL HEALTH SITE

Our panel of doctors gave **Mayo Clinic Health O@sis** their highest rating last August, calling it "the best overall site" with "good basic information." The library holds a wealth of reliable knowledge on various conditions, from arthritis to urinary-tract infections. You'll also find specific sections devoted to alternative medicine, as well as those that cover men's, women's, and children's health. If you come across an unfamiliar term, you can check the glossary for the definition and an audio sample of its correct pronunciation.

www.mayohealth.org

28 BEST MEDICAL SEARCH ENGINES

When you're plagued by a specific condition—whether it's migraine or myasthenia gravis—you often find that your appetite for information quickly goes beyond the basic. **Medscape** is where practitioners, students, and consumers can search among more than 7,000 full-text articles on the latest medical research. This site also provides free and unrestricted access to MEDLINE, which has more than 8.4 million abstracts from 3,800 medical journals.

www.medscape.com

29 BEST DRUG INDEX

If you've accidentally thrown away the indications sheet that came folded up in your box of pills or ointment, do a search at **RxList**, which has data on hundreds of pharmaceutical drugs, including warnings, interactions, dosages, and overdose treatments. You can

Prevention will tell it to you straight, with the statistics and scientific data to back it up.

www.cdc.gov

» HOME, KIDS, & FAMILY

31 BEST KIDS' HANGOUT

Disney.com is loaded with so many fun features that it's

again. (Parents should note that accessing some features may require registering at the site or signing up for the Disney's Blast pay service for \$5.95 a month.) **ALSO:** For a site with a more educational bent, log on to **MaMaMedia**, which serves up games, activities, and a kids-oriented guide to the Net.

www.disney.com

www.mamamedia.com

32 BEST SOURCE OF PARENTAL SALVATION

Parent Soup is one of the most popular forums

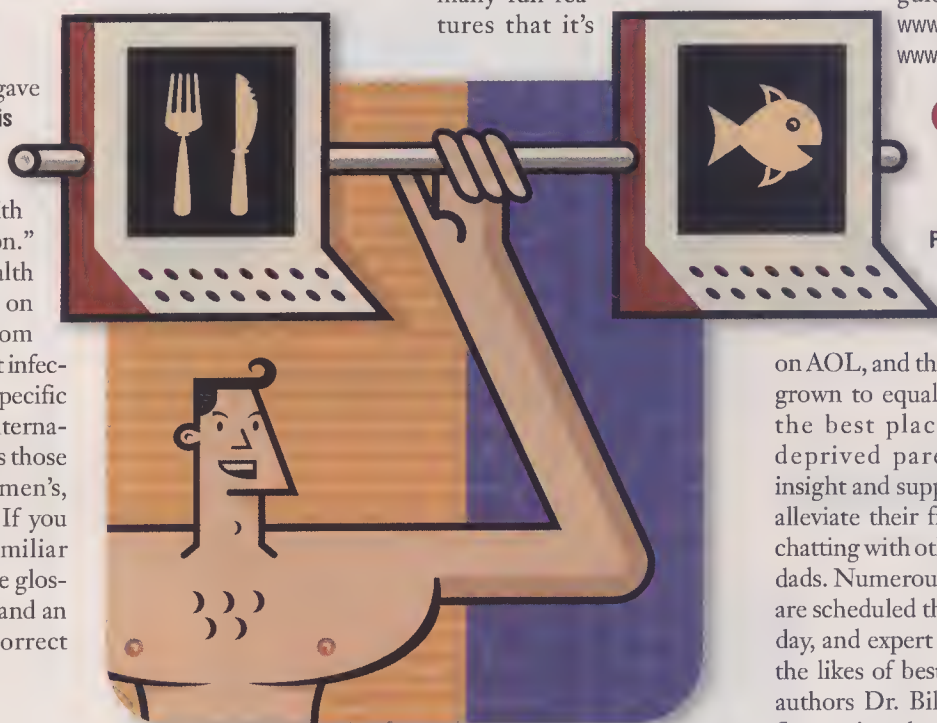
on AOL, and the Web site has grown to equal its stature as the best place for sleep-deprived parents to gain insight and support or simply alleviate their frustrations by chatting with other moms and dads. Numerous topical chats are scheduled throughout the day, and expert advice—from the likes of best-selling book authors Dr. Bill and Martha Sears—is on hand at any time, with specific sections devoted to parents of infants, toddlers, or teens, as well as to those who are expecting.

www.parentsoup.com

[or AOL Keyword: *parentsoup*]

33 BEST DO-IT-YOURSELF IDEAS

For people who like to be productive when they putter about the house and yard, **HouseNet** makes a great online hangout, with innovative ideas for improving the house, lawn, and garden, along with sewing and decorating tips. There are calculators to help you determine how much paint, wallpa-



search by name (brand or generic) or imprint code (the numbers and letters stamped on pills and capsules), which can come in handy if you ever find a mysterious tablet in your medicine cabinet.

www.rxlist.com

30 BEST DISEASE-INFORMATION SITE

Whether you're afraid you've got a sexually transmitted disease or just want to know what the recommended vaccinations are when you're traveling to a foreign country, it helps to know the facts. **The Centers for Disease Control and**

Prevention will tell it to you straight, with the statistics and scientific data to back it up. If your child has a favorite Disney pal—from such old favorites as Winnie the Pooh to recent role models like Pocahontas—click its picture on the Star Watch panel for a hyperlinked index to all the cool things featuring that character. Shock-wave games, interactive trivia quizzes, and a variety of sing-alongs and read-alongs are all sprinkled liberally throughout. The site offers such total immersion in the beautifully illustrated world of Disney that kids may never need to turn on the tube

per, or drywall you'll need for a given project, and articles comparing the costs of doing it yourself with the bill for hiring a pro.

www.housenet.com

34 BEST HOME-IMPROVEMENT ENCYCLOPEDIA

Whether your toilet tank sweats, your wood deck is decayed, or your doorbell just doesn't ring the way it used to, the *Better Homes and Gardens Home Improvement Encyclopedia* can help with repairs. You'll find more than 1,000 ideas for fixing up your home here, many of which are accompanied by Shockwave animations. There's also a tool dictionary, in case you can't tell your spade bit from your spud wrench.

www.bhglive.com/homeimp/docs

>> HUMOR & FUN

36 BEST NEWS SATIRE

What began as a college newspaper satire a decade ago has today proved to millions that Wisconsin can produce more than just beer, football players, and cheese. Whenever the real news gets you down, wrap your mind around such headlines as "Department of Transportation to Replace Highway Markers with Dead Raccoons" and "Suburbanite Saved From Certain Poisoning by Brita Filter." (For the traditionalist, there is also a print version of *The Onion*.)

www.theonion.com

37 BEST SOURCE FOR E-MAIL JOKES

Ever wonder where all those lists, jokes, and anecdotes come from—the ones that get forwarded to your office e-mailbox by someone you're

spotlight on...

35 BEST SHOCKWAVE GAMES

ShockRave has the best in Macromedia Shockwave games. This is where you'll find the crème de la crème of movie-themed games, plus highly detailed action and adventure involving everything from avoiding alien abduction to delivering doughnuts on time. Naturally, you'll find a link to the latest version of the Shockwave plug-in, which you'll need before you play.

www.shockrave.com



not sure you even know? The mysterious source is probably the *Wrecked Humor Collection*. The site isn't very aesthetically appealing, but then again, comedy isn't pretty.

www.cris.com/~Dcashman/humor

>> INTERNET

38 BEST GUIDE TO LIVE CHAT

Whenever you get the urge to barge in on a conversation, check out **Yack!**, which will tell you what's going on right now. Or search the categories for discussions on dozens of topics—Talk City's Codependents Anonymous Step Study, perhaps, or Entertainment Asylum's chat with "famous wife" Mavis (Mrs. Jay) Leno. The scheduling information also tracks all the best live events Netwide, everywhere from America Online to the Globe. And if you believe that brevity is the soul of chat, keep

an eye on the Notable Quotables section, which features a selected transcript snippet every day.

www.yack.com

39 BEST LIVE AUDIO

broadcast.com (which was known as AudioNet when we gave it a 5-star rating last March) earned its fame as a virtual radio antenna to the world. Now it has added video to the mix, for a total of more than 370 radio and TV stations. You can also listen in on play-by-play broadcasts for more than 400 sports teams or sample your choice of 2,200 CDs and over 460 audio books. Abuse radio from Dr. Laura Schlesinger or rock and roll from Little Rock are never more than a mouse-click away.

www.broadcast.com

40 BEST WEB DIRECTORY

Yes, we're partners with

Yahoo!, but it's the world's favorite for good reason. Best for searching by category, this directory has become a massive hierarchical structure whose 14 main headings are subdivided into thousands of subheadings—under which Yahoo!'s crack staff has brought a semblance of order to the Web. If you ever fail to get Yahoo! hits from a search term, results are automatically supplemented by those from the Inktomi search engine, and with one more click you can also retrieve results from any of the search engines, including AltaVista, Deja News, HotBot, and Infoseek. **ALSO:** **Excite** and **Lycos**, too, have wrestled the weird, wild Web into succinct categories.

www.yahoo.com

www.excite.com

www.lycos.com

41 BEST SEARCH ENGINE

When you're hunting for an exact term that other search engines can't find, don't give up until you've tried **AltaVista**, which has perhaps crawled through and indexed more sites than any other search engine around. And now that it has licensed natural-language technology from Ask Jeeves, you can type in direct questions and get intelligible results. **ALSO:** As a search engine, **Infoseek** is almost as comprehensive as AltaVista, and it also supplements its utility by providing a separate Web directory. And **HotBot** has been gaining popularity for its searching strength and smart, tidy organization of results.

www.altavista.com

www.infoseek.com

www.hotbot.com

42 BEST SEARCH ENGINE STATS

Search Engine Watch is an exhaustive resource suitable for beginners as well as for Webmasters who want to maximize their sites' exposure. Novices should start with Search Engine Facts and Fun, where they'll learn the differences among search engines (which retrieve hits from a cataloged index of documents created by a computer), directories (online indexes compiled by humans), and metacrawlers (which search several search engines at once). Tips on searching and power-searching will help everyone locate information more efficiently—and isn't that what the Internet is all about? Those curious about whether the search tool they're using is up to snuff can have a look at status reports on the popularity, performance, and efficacy of various search sites.

www.searchenginewatch.com

43 BEST GUIDE TO NET BASICS

Learn the Net has just enough concisely written information to get you surfing, or creating and troubleshooting Web sites, in short order. The site makes good use of frames, allowing you to jump back and forth efficiently between the glossary and the sections on e-mail, Web publishing, modems, and search tools. The FAQ list answers all those not-so-stupid questions that beginners often ask, such as: "My Netscape browser keeps crashing. What do I do?" (Answer: Start by making sure you've got a stable version—i.e., 3.0 or later.) What's more, you can read everything here in five languages.

www.learnthenet.com

44 BEST E-MAIL HOW-TO

Everything E-Mail is an excellent source for basic information on how to use e-mail more productively. Topics covered include e-mail etiquette, finding e-mail addresses, e-mail software selection, mailing lists, issues related to unsolicited e-mail (otherwise known as spam), and much more.

everythingemail.net

TOOLS OF THE TRADE



TravelSmith

Packable Panama Hat

Coolmax® Tee

Convertible Pants

Packable Raincoat

Mini Hair Dryer

Jackson & Perkins

Garden Votives

Resin Pots

Frog Rain Gauge

Seed Birdhouse

Arch Arbor

Frontgate

Custom Wine Cellar

Airtight Bottle Toppers

Screwpull Wine Opener

Motorized Bar Trunk

Stainless Wine Bucket

SelfCare

Dermacolor Mineral Blush

Magnetic Bio-Massager

Nail-Care Kit

Potent-C Serum

Interplak Toothbrush



thousands of catalogs • one site



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www.catalogcity.com

45 BEST WEB**DEVELOPER RESOURCE**

Quadzilla: D.J. Quad's Ultimate HTML Site calls itself "your one-stop Web development site, period." And it is, with all the HTML tutorials, style guides, code references, publishing tips, and multimedia information any self-respecting Web developer will ever need. **ALSO:** For the beginning or even intermediate developer, **Webmonkey** is another good place to start. www.quadzilla.com
www.webmonkey.com

46 BEST WAY TO KEEP UP WITH NEW SITES

You want to know about the newest sites cropping up on the Web, but you don't want to spend the time actually waiting for them to load on your computer. **Netsurfer Digest**, which is also available as a weekly e-mail newsletter, will do the job in incomparable style. www.netsurf.com/nsd

47 BEST PLACE FOR FREE WEB PAGES

We gave **GeoCities** a 5-star review in May, calling it "the Great Plains of the expanding Web land rush." More than 5,000 new "homesteaders" settle in here every day, and more people create home pages here than anywhere else. Puzzlingly, no fewer than 869 of them have used the term "estrogen brigade" in naming their little corner of the Net. **ALSO:** Those who'd feel stigmatized by having *geocities* as part of their URL might opt instead for **Tripod**, which hasn't yet earned the same reputation for hosting truly bizarre Web pages. Like GeoCities, how-

ever, Tripod offers an instant home-page builder for the HTML-challenged.

www.geocities.com

www.tripod.com

>> MONEY**48 BEST PERSONAL-FINANCE RESOURCE**

Either on the Web or on AOL, **Quicken.com** is a terrific one-stop source for consumer advice on online banking, getting the best credit card deals, saving for retirement, and generally making the most of your money. Among the neat interactive features are a 10-minute retirement investment planner and a complete online wedding budgeter.

www.quicken.com

[or AOL Keyword: *intuit*]

50 BEST FINANCIAL NEWS

The Wall Street Journal is one of the world's most trusted financial newspapers, and if you subscribe to the interactive edition, you'll be able to search its archives, get background information on companies, and follow breaking news and market activity without getting ink on your fingers. Of course, even if you prefer to tote around the print version as a status symbol, you may want to visit the site anyway for free access to such content as dynamic stock charts (showing trends in specific sectors you select) and personalized news that you can tailor to the topics about which you want to read. You'll also have access to real-time market quotes—

that is, *really* real-time, and not delayed by the standard 15 minutes—but each user is limited to 50 per day. www.wsj.com

51 BEST HIGH-TECH-STOCK TALK

More than 6 million messages have been posted at **Silicon Investor**, making it by far the largest financial-shop-talk site online. Hang out here and get the scoop on who's moving, who's shaking, and who's suing whom in the world of high-tech stocks. We could say that this site can make you feel like an insider, but that might suggest some sort of illegality. www.techstocks.com

52 BEST STOCK-MARKET NEWS

If you're invested in the roller-coaster fun ride known as the stock market, let **TheStreet.com** be the safety bar that keeps you in your seat through the ups and downs. Its independent, insightful, and sometimes irreverent reporting will help you determine which stocks to buy, when to hold 'em, and when to fold 'em. There's also a glossary to explain S&P futures and 12b-1 fees, and an interactive work sheet to help you allocate your assets into the ideal mutual fund. www.thestreet.com

53 BEST INTERNET COMMENTARY

As the Internet economy grows ever larger, **The Industry Standard** is there to track it, with news, views, and features on the people behind companies who are making it big online. Check out the Internet Economy Index for a raw-numbers look at how business is actually doing on the Net. **ALSO:** For news about the

spotlight on...**49 BEST TAX SITE**

If you're the type of taxpayer who tends to wait until the last minute to file, and have more than once discovered that you're missing an obscure form that could spell the difference between getting a bill or a refund, head to the official site of the Internal Revenue Service. **The Digital Daily**, as it calls itself (perhaps in an attempt to sound less taxing), is the best place to find and download even the most elusive of the hundreds of forms, booklets, instructions, and work sheets that the IRS generates. All are delivered as .PDF files, so you'll need a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader to view them.

www.irs.ustreas.gov

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[or AOL Keyword: *intuit*]

(covering a wide range of sectors you select) and personalized news that you can tailor to the topics about which you want to read. You'll also have access to real-time market quotes—

in *Money*, but that might suggest some sort of illegality.
www.techstocks.com

52 BEST STOCK-MARKET NEWS

If you're invested in the roller-coaster fun ride known as the stock market, let **TheStreet.com** be the safety bar that keeps you in your seat through the ups and downs. Its independent, insightful, and sometimes irreverent reporting will help you determine which stocks to buy, when to hold 'em, and when to fold 'em. There's also a glossary to explain S&P futures and 12b-1 fees, and an interactive work sheet to help you allocate your assets into the ideal mutual fund.
www.thestreet.com

**53 BEST INTERNET
COMMENTARY**

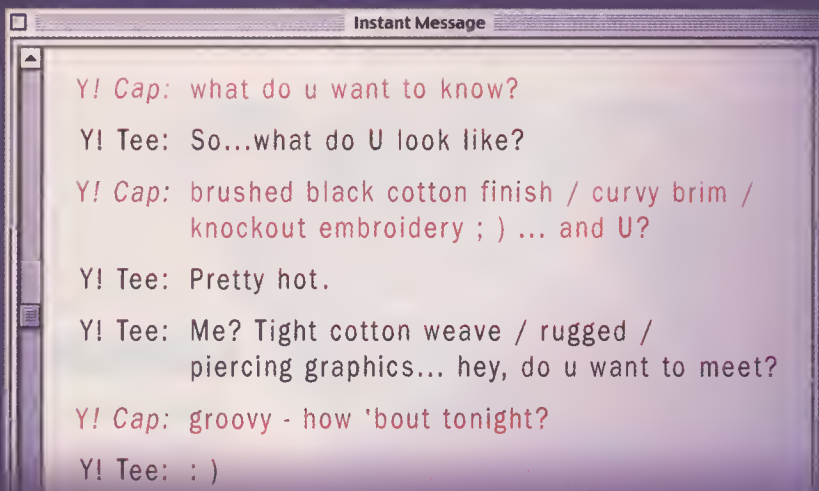
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gear.yahoo.com

industry, our sister publication *Inter@ctive Week* has a rich site full of breaking stories, commentary, and listings for forums and conferences.
www.thestandard.com
www.interactiveweek.com

» MOVIES & TV

54 BEST MOVIE SHOW TIMES AND TICKETS

The best part about **MovieLink** online is not having to listen to a movie preview against your will. You can also download trailers for popular films, sign up for a personalized service that delivers e-mail about upcoming releases, read extensive reviews, and link to related Web sites. And, as with the phone version, you can search for show times and order tickets by credit card (the \$1.50 per-ticket surcharge still applies).
www.movielink.com
 [or www.777film.com]

55 BEST MOVIE REFERENCE

The Internet Movie Database is universally acknowledged as the best online source for movie information of any kind. With its more than 170,000 titles and over 2 million filmography entries, you'll find whatever you could possibly want—biographies, cast lists, screenwriter credits, plot summaries, production credits, release dates, video clips, sound clips, and trivia.
www.imdb.com

56 BEST TELEVISION SITE

If your world revolves around the small screen—and let's be frank: Whose doesn't?—look no further than **TVGEN**. As the online arm of the almighty *TV Guide*, it has 11 days' worth of broadcast schedules (just enter



your ZIP code and select the day and time slot), listings previews, actor profiles, soap-opera news, celebrity gossip, and Nielsen ratings—everything, in fact, but the microwave popcorn. **ALSO:** **Gist TV** is an excellent (albeit slower-loading) alternative.
www.tvgen.com
www.gist.com

57 BEST CELEBRITY NEWS

Mr. Showbiz has great news on the stars making headlines, plus interviews with such omnipresent luminaries as Oprah and Cindy Crawford, cute interactive games (including a virtual plastic-surgery lab where you can rearrange the faces of *ER* stars), and lots of reviews of current movies and television shows. It also houses **Celebsite**, which has more than 600 profiles on the world's most popular actors, athletes, comedians, directors, writers, producers, models, and

dish. **E! Online** feeds our celebrity obsession with a steamy, yet not too unseemly, flair.
www.eonline.com
 [or AOL Keyword: *E!*]

» MUSIC

59 BEST POP NETWORK

SonicNet simply does music better than all the rest. The Music News section has great daily reporting, comprehensive features, and concert and album reviews, all searchable by artist, topic, or keyword. The SonicNet Station has a variety of channels—previously recorded concerts, Streamland music videos, radio in several flavors (alternative, electronic, pop, urban, SonicNet “mix”)—plus an ongoing schedule of live Netcasts and chats. The Music Guide provides links to more music sites on the Web, and it's searchable or browsable by category. **ALSO:** For an equally great music network with a more mainstream bent, **JamTV** is flashy, animated, and packed with multimedia muscle.
www.sonicnet.com
www.jamtv.com

60 BEST MUSIC CHARTS AND INDUSTRY NEWS

Musicians aspire to top **Billboard's** charts, but you'll just appreciate the chance to look at them. Find out who's where on the *Billboard* 200, the Hot 100 Singles, and the lists for top country and R&B. The site also has great industry news and a Heatseekers chart with profiles on newcomers, including streaming video clips. What's more, you can search a database containing nearly 20,000 *Billboard* album

TV personalities. (The site is hosted by **ABCNews.com**).
www.mrshowbiz.com

58 BEST CELEBRITY GOSSIP

Stars who can't seem to get out of rehab. Stars who have gone under the knife. Stars who were caught snuggling a nonspouse in the back of a dim brasserie. Q&As with everyone from LL Cool J to Jared Leto. This is the very essence of good Hollywood



reviews. And if you're game, you can test your instincts in the Challenge: You pick the hits, and if they make the charts, you win prizes.
www.billboard.com

61 BEST MUSIC REFERENCE

Representing the combined effort of hundreds of experienced music writers, the **All-Music Guide** is a mammoth database with information on more than 16,000 artists and over 230,000 albums. Read artist bios or cross-reference song titles. The section on musical styles has information on eight genres and all their permutations, so you can gain an understanding not just of the blues but also of acoustic blues, modern acoustic blues, and even modern electric har-

monica blues. In addition, there are five ways to locate info in the database, which can be searched by artist, album, song title, musical style, or record label.
www.allmusic.com

62 BEST VIRTUAL LISTENING BOOTH

Yes, **Tunes** is a store. But it's also the best CD-listening station online. Choose from hundreds of new releases as well as old favorites. To listen to the tracks, all you need is the RealAudio Player plug-in and a modem speed of 28.8Kbps or better.
www.tunes.com

63 BEST LIVE CONCERTS

With the Net's largest archive of concert footage, **LiveCon-**

certs.com lets you experience the live performances of myriad acts—from the Mavericks to Tina Turner—without your ever having to stand in line for a ticket. Tune in regularly for new programming. (Sound is delivered via RealAudio, but the quality is only going to be as good as the speakers connected to your computer.)
www.liveconcerts.com

64 BEST SOURCE FOR SONG LYRICS

Type in an artist. Type in an album. Type in a song title. Get all the lyrics. It's as simple as that at the **International Lyrics Server**. This database, which contains the words to more than 107,000 songs, is a must-bookmark site for

karaoke cultists and shower-stall singers alike.
www.lyrics.ch

65 BEST BAND INFORMATION

The **Ultimate Band List**, a user-definable database that allows bands to submit links to their own sites, covers just about every musical group you can imagine, from the ultrafamous to the understandably obscure. (Who knew that the Strawbs had a home page?)
www.ubl.com

>> NEWS & MEDIA

66 BEST NEWS PORTAL

MSNBC.com or **CNN.com**? We favor MSNBC.com because it built its reputation on the Web before it blossomed on

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cable, whereas CNN was well respected as a cable news channel before it set up shop online. MSNBC.com also has a friendlier feel, with FAQs on major headlines (such as the Microsoft antitrust trial), so you can quickly get up to speed on the key issues. However, CNN.com has those handy icons sprinkled among its headlines, so you know at a glance which stories are accompanied by video or audio clips. The bottom line: Both sites do a terrific job of supplementing their TV broadcasts with in-depth online content. Let's call it a tie. **ALSO:** **ABCNews.com** runs a close second—or third, depending on how you look at it—but we think it's tops for celebrity news (see No. 57). And **Pathfinder** is the online funnel for such Time Warner publications as *Time*, *Money*, *Fortune*, *Entertainment Weekly*, and *Life*. Here, no subscription is needed, though to get *People* you must now pay AOL's admission price.

msnbc.com
www.cnn.com
www.abcnews.com
www.pathfinder.com

67 BEST NEWSPAPER ONLINE
Acclaimed international, national, and local news coverage. Real estate and employment listings that you can click to save and print. The *CyberTimes* all the time. These are just a few reasons why *The New York Times* is as good online as on paper. Unfortunately, only AOL users get free access to the crossword puzzles; users of other Internet service providers must pay an



additional fee.
www.nytimes.com [or AOL
Keywords: NYT Crosswords]

68 BEST SITE FOR NEWS "LITE"

When we gave it our 5-star rating last April, we acknowledged that some other news entities thought of **USA Today** as borderline tabloid in nature. But whenever you tire of Web news wrought in excessive and overstyled verbiage, it's nice to know that **USA Today** will still keep you abreast of current events in a succinct and cheerful style.
www.usatoday.com

69 BEST COVERAGE OF POLITICS AND CULTURE

So what if Congress and the mainstream media have suddenly denounced **Salon** as a despicable, slimy, bottom-feeding digital rag? Hey, we love it. Even as it deconstructs the Clinton/Lewinsky crisis, disses Toni Morrison, or slings arrows at Ally McBeal, it does so with such erudition that we completely forgive **Salon** for being—as it recently described most good Web writing—"snotty, solipsistic, overdone, excessive, insular, contemptuous, undisciplined,



childish, navel-gazing, and elitist." **ALSO:** When you don't have time to read the ramblings at **Salon**, try **Slate**, which is less self-conscious and more yuppified in a Washington-insider kind of way, but equally thought-provoking. Another bonus is that you can cut down on your obligatory consumption of

left-of-center commentary by limiting yourself to the stuff that's free to nonsubscribers.
www.salonmagazine.com
www.slate.com

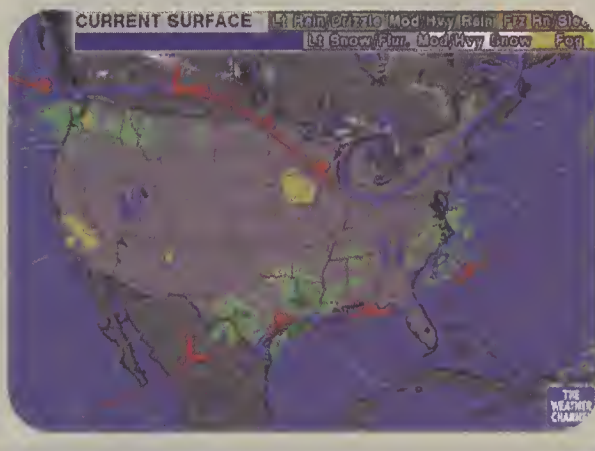
70 BEST COVERAGE OF HIGH-TECH CULTURE

Feed was covering the culture of technology before technology even had a culture. Now, it's all grown up with a redesign that presents its technomedia esoterica—a behind-the-scenes look at VH-1's *Pop-Up Video*, say, or a history lesson on the origins of audio sampling—in fitting style. Most columns appear only monthly, but that frequency allows plenty of time for working all those references to French philosophers and structuralist anthropology into reviews of high-tech gadgetry. **ALSO:** For a more fact-filled take on

spotlight on...

72 BEST WEATHER SITE

When bad weather becomes big news, **The Weather Channel** is the best place to go to find out all about it. Here you'll find Doppler-radar maps, U.S. satellite maps, and spore maps (invaluable for allergy sufferers), plus forecasts for today, tomorrow, and far into the future. You can also view QuickTime video clips of Bruce Edwards retelling "This Day in Weather History" and watch a Webcam feed of the Weather Channel's meteorologists at work.
www.weather.com



things, try **HotWired**, which hosts Suck.com's scathing Web commentary alongside news offerings from *Wired*.

www.feedmag.com

www.hotwired.com

71 BEST POLITICAL COMMENTARY

If the sound-byte approach to political news leaves you wanting more, but you find other political-commentary zines a bit too adolescent and obtuse, try **IntellectualCapital.com**. It features thorough and bipartisan analysis of current public-policy issues. You'll also find incisive and engaging commentary on state-level and global politics and on major events in finance and big business.

www.intellectualcapital.com

>> REFERENCE

73 BEST ENCYCLOPEDIA

Access to **Britannica Online** costs just \$5 a month, and for that you get 32 volumes, more than 72,000 articles, and over 12,000 images in a Web-based format that's much more convenient than a set of heavy books—not to mention more current, since the online version is continuously updated. And you get hyperlinks to related Web sites. **ALSO:** If you're a firm believer in the idea that information wants to be free, try **Encyclopedia.com**, which has more than 17,000 cross-linked articles from the third edition of the Concise Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia.

www.eb.com

www.encyclopedia.com

74 BEST DICTIONARY

Sure, any old dictionary will have the definition for *coruscate*. But where do you turn to uncover the meaning of a more esoteric word, such as *grep*? Type it in at **OneLook Dictionaries**, which will instantly search through more than 400 dictionaries and glossaries, including ones specialized for business, sports, medicine, technology, religion, and science. Of course, it checks in with the likes of *Webster's*, too.

www.onelook.com

75 BEST QUOTE SOURCE

Bartlett's Familiar Quotations was originally published in 1901. Put online in 1995, it's now the place on the Web to go for famous quotes from the usual

suspects, such as Shakespeare and Napoleon. Though the contents aren't as current as those of the latest print edition, the site does enable you simply to type in your desired topic and find something pithy and suitable for virtually any occasion.

www.columbia.edu/acis/bartlett/bartlett

>> RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

76 BEST RELIGION INDEX

Great god pages abound, but how politically correct would we be if we had to choose just one? Instead, we offer the **Virtual Religion Index**, the very best listing we could find to link you to the faith of your choice. Select from among

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ShoppingLab.com

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Home theater components. DVD players. CD players. Speakers. Mini-systems. Camcorders.

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We're the authorized website for practically every major audio and video brand out there, so we can bring you the latest models, deliver fast, and cover you with the full warranty and our own Total Satisfaction Guarantee.

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the major traditions—Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu—or delve into a more specific topic, such as the psychology of religious experience or the anthropology of cults.

www.rci.rutgers.edu/~religion/links/vrindex.html

77 BEST RELIGION HUB SITES

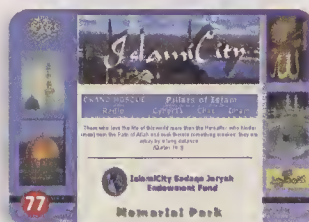
On second thought: When we ran our feature last April on finding your god online, we did pick a few good bookmarks. Most notably, **Jewishnet**, which has links to everything from anti-Semitism to Zionism; **DharmaNet International**, whose gateways to online libraries, chat, and Zen-related personal pages will bring out the Buddhist in you; **IslamiCity**, where Muslims can catch up on prayers or make a match in the matrimonial department; and **The Hindu Universe**, where you'll find links on subjects from ashrams to yoga. Not to be forgotten is the biggest set of Jesus pages online, **Christianity Online**, which has everything from a church locator to a movie guide.

jewishnet.net
www.dharmanet.org
www.islam.org
www.hindunet.org
christianity.net
 [or AOL Keyword: CO]

>> SCIENCE

78 BEST SCIENCE NETWORK

The Discovery Channel is for people who get excited about science, nature, and learning the secrets of the humpback whale. The site has content that parallels or supplements programs from the cable channel, such as *Animal Planet*, as well as features pro-



duced just for the Web, including animal cams, live chats, in-depth news stories, and play-for-prizes interactive games (e.g., "Name That Plane," which asks you to identify an aircraft by viewing only a portion of it).

www.discovery.com

spotlight on...

80 BEST SCIENCE MUSEUM

Type in your weight and instantly find out how much you would weigh on the moon, the other eight planets, and a few different types of stars. (If the thin are from Mars, then the obese are from Venus.) See if you would be capable of hitting a 90-m.p.h. fastball by playing a Shock-wave game. With fun entry points like these, **The Exploratorium** is a great place for kids, teachers, and curious adults to dive into the world of science, art, and human perception. The site also features a digital archive of all the museum's past Netcasts, Webcams, and exhibits, including the well-known Cow Eye Dissection.

www.exploratorium.edu



79 BEST ASTRONOMY SITE

If you've got stars in your eyes, the home page of the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration** is the place to go. Shuttle briefings, astronomical news, and pages upon pages of planetary images from space are all delivered directly to the Earth-bound fan of the space program. The site may take a while to load, but it's definitely worth the wait.

www.nasa.gov

>> SHOPPING

81 BEST ONLINE AUCTION

There's a war going on at **eBay**. A bidding war, that is. At any time of day, you can log on here to place a bid on one of 850,000 items for sale in more than 1,000 categories, from books to Beanie

Babies, computers to collectibles. (On a recent visit, we saw everything from a professional-strength teeth-bleaching kit to a year-2000 countdown clock.) The watchwords here are "buyer beware." Sellers set individual rules, so be sure to read the fine print. But if you can't find it any other way or are looking for a true bottom-dollar bargain, this is the place to go.

www.ebay.com

82 BEST BOOKSTORE

More than 3 million titles, discounts of up to 40 percent, and convenient one-click shopping have been enough to make customers loyal to **Amazon.com**. Chapter excerpts, author interviews, critics' comments, and candid customer reviews are what keep people browsing in these virtual aisles. **ALSO: Barnesandnoble.com** has extra reading material, quick delivery, and equally deep discounts on books (plus up to 80 percent off on a wide selection of magazines). The blander interface, though, may soon have you craving a cup of coffee.

www.amazon.com

www.barnesandnoble.com

83 BEST CONSUMER SHOPPING ADVICE

Famously unbiased and painstakingly thorough, the detailed charts of **Consumer Reports** magazine are the first place many consumers go when trying to decide which car, refrigerator, fax machine, or camera to buy. It costs a mere \$2.95 per month to access the product ratings and recommendations online, but each week the site posts a handful of consumer-advice

features for free. Browse through subject categories (Appliances, Home Office, Electronics), or do a quick keyword search to find the information you need.

www.consumerreports.org [or AOL Keywords: *Consumer Reports*]

84 BEST PLACE TO BUY CDs

When we published our first annual "Y-Life Music Awards" story last August, **Tower Records** won in the category of "The Best of Names You Know from the Mall." The site succeeded in re-creating the look and feel of its retail stores, while adding audio samples, reviews from *Pulse!* and other print publications, and (except for California residents) relief from sales tax. **ALSO: Music Boulevard** won our "Best for the Enthusiast" award on the basis of its copious audio clips, news, and reviews from such sister sites as Rocktropolis and JazzCentralStation. Sales tax is charged to customers in three states (California, New York, and Pennsylvania), but if you join the frequent-buyer club, 10 CD purchases will get you one free.

www.towerrecords.com [or AOL Keyword: *Tower*]
www.musicblvd.com

85 BEST PLACE TO SHOP FOR A NEW HOME

Though you can't actually *buy* a home online, you can certainly shop for one. **Realtor.com** won our "Site Test" last October based on the richness of its listings, its general technical excellence, and its geographic coverage. Indeed, the site covers more than 90 percent of all available inventory offered by multiple-listing services (the same databases that

real estate agents can access). Would you expect any less from the official site of the National Association of Realtors, the industry's main professional group? **ALSO: Microsoft HomeAdvisor** has a great guide to the actual process of buying a home (and finding a loan), but its search engine for home listings could use some refinement. (For example, we found West Orange, New Jersey, listings categorized under Newark, even though the two are separate towns.)

www.realtor.com
www.homeadvisor.com

86 BEST PLACE TO BUY EVENT TICKETS

Ticketmaster Online offers a full range of music, sporting-event, museum, and Broadway-show tickets. The Top 25 most popular events are tracked for each category, so you'll know what's hot and what's not. For those planning a trip, the site sponsors guides to several cities across the country. **ALSO: NetTiks**, the online outpost of Telecharge, primarily sells tickets for Broadway and off-Broadway shows—but you can buy them online in realtime: Once you find the show and seats you desire,

you'll have three minutes to purchase them before they are returned to the database, which is the same one used by the box office. (Both sites have contact numbers and other venue details).

www.ticketmaster.com
www.telecharge.com

87 BEST PLACE TO BUY VIDEOS

Options abound at **Reel**, which calls itself "the best place to buy movies." Some 100,000 films are for sale here, including the new, the used, and the rare. And if you're short on shelf space or just don't want to see the same movie twice, you can also rent movies here. (Renting from Reel costs a bit more than at Blockbuster,

but Reel has films the chain doesn't carry, and you get to keep them for seven days.) If you know what film you want, the search engine will yield the details, including a bar chart rating each flick's sex, violence, humor, and action content. If you're browsing for something new, a movie-match search engine will find you a film that is similar to the ones you know and love. What about price? All new movies are at least 15 percent off retail.

www.reel.com
[or AOL Keyword: *Reel*]

88 BEST PLACE TO SHOP FOR A NEW CAR

Our "Site Test" last January on shopping for a new car yielded the **Consumers Car Club**

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as the overall winner. It tracked down the best deal within four business days (after a \$100 nonrefundable deposit) and promised delivery in one week. Moreover, it received the most check marks for service. After you tell the site what you want, it will identify local dealers, factory-order the car if necessary, negotiate the price for you, deliver a buyer's order for you to sign, help you with dealer paperwork, and even assist with a trade-in. **ALSO:** **Microsoft CarPoint** features a buying service as well, along with reviews and performance specs, used-car classifieds, and crash-test results.
www.carclub.com
www.carpoint.com

» SPORTS

89 BEST SPORTS NEWS

For its comprehensiveness alone, **ESPN.com** is tough to beat. It offers scores, news, statistics, pictures, audio, and video for every competitive sport under the sun, including extreme sports such as mountain biking and climbing. In addition, it links to the official sites of the National Basketball Association, National Football League, and National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing. **ALSO:** **CNN/SI** is nearly as vast and has more global coverage, not to mention content from *Sports Illustrated* magazine. **CBS SportsLine** has the Daily Line, which provides the point spread on numerous games (for the betting kind), plus coverage of such recreational sports as fly-fishing and billiards. (We've ranked CBS SportsLine and CNN/SI higher than ESPN.com in

the past, but here's the way things stand—for now.)
espn.sportszone.com
www.cnn.si.com
www.sportslines.com

90 BEST BASEBALL SITE

We picked **Fastball** for its complete coverage of the sport in its major- and minor-league forms, with stats, scores, commentary, and fun interactive features, including chat forums and fantasy baseball. And in case you missed the last World Series (the four-game win by the Yankees went by in what seemed like a New York minute), you can relive the highlights here. There's also a game-by-game recap of the historic

cial merchandise, look up regulations, or read specific rules pertinent to each stadium.
www.fastball.com
www.majorleaguebaseball.com

91 BEST BASKETBALL SITE

The official site of the **NBA** is a hoopster's Net dream. Besides current and historical stats and scores, fans will find player spotlights, live chats, and an NBA History section with downloadable video clips of the most exciting moments in games both recent and long past. If you're miffed by the cancellation of the first part of the NBA season, you'll find the gritty details about the labor dispute here, complete with a transcript and RealAudio broadcast of the press conference with NBA

92 BEST FOOTBALL SITE

The official site of the **NFL** scores a touchdown for its graphical organization. Just click on the helmet logo of your favorite professional team and get swept away to team news, stats, and a scoreboard, plus a Who's Who section on the coaching staff. For fans who have a favorite quarterback or wide receiver, a special interactive feature called PlayerTracker will keep an eye on statistics for as many as 15 players of your choosing—including alumni of your alma mater.
www.nfl.com

93 BEST KIDS' SPORTS SITE

Interactive is the name of the game at the online counterpart of *Sports Illustrated for Kids*, and there are ample opportunities to participate. Kids can weigh in on opinion polls, vote on which famous player should appear on a future magazine cover, or sign up for a fantasy sports game and play against kids from around the world. For sports news tailored to 10-minute attention spans, the Shorter Reporter has briefs.
www.sikids.com

» TRAVEL

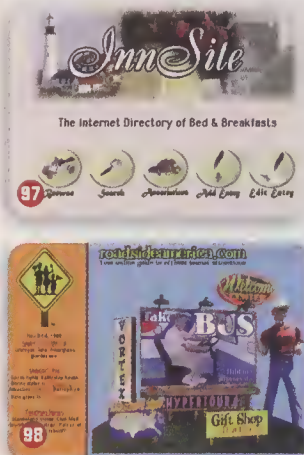
94 BEST TRAVEL NETWORK

Travelocity and **Microsoft Expedia Travel** are both worthy bookmarks for the would-be traveler. Both will tell you where, when, and how to go. Both allow you to book reservations for flights, car rentals, and hotels online. And both offer comprehensive coverage of the world. Though Expedia has special deals on



McGwire-Sosa home-run race. **ALSO:** The home page of **Major League Baseball** is great, too, and it's the best place to go when you want to buy offi-

Commissioner David Stern and Deputy Commissioner Russ Granik. There's also an excerpt from *Values of the Game*, the new book by former Knicks star Bill Bradley.
www.nba.com



tours, Travelocity will show you last-minute deals and low fares from popular cities. However, Expedia offers more-thorough health and safety information for those traveling to exotic destinations, and it has gone through a fabulous redesign that makes it more attractive as a Web-surfing destination. www.expedia.com www.travelocity.com

95 BEST BUSINESS-TRAVEL NETWORK

Catering to the business-class traveler, **Biztravel.com** has articles on such topics as how to protect your laptop when you fly. It also lets you book reservations, track frequent-flier miles, and check weather and maps for your destination. In short, it serves as a travel zine for the pin-striped set—all more efficiently than the average executive assistant ever could. www.biztravel.com

96 BEST PRINTABLE DRIVING DIRECTIONS

The shortest distance between any two points is not always a straight line. **Maps on Us** acknowledges this by providing not one but *four* ways to

plan a driving route. Type in any two addresses (or businesses or landmarks), and choose which method you want to use to get there from here: fastest, shortest, highways, or back roads. www.mapsonus.com

97 BEST INN DIRECTORY

Staying at a bed-and-breakfast is just like spending the weekend at a friend's house—except that you can enjoy the homemade pancakes and coffee without feeling obligated to reciprocate by springing for lunch later. Of course, you may have to endure a bit of awkward morning chitchat with total strangers, but many consider that a small price to pay for the B&B experience. Surf **InnSite** for extensive previews—including photos and maps—of places to stay the night, throughout the U.S. and abroad. In fact, the InnCrawler feature will let you search through more than 12,000 Web pages to find the inn of your dreams. In addition, there are links to B&B-related discussion groups and an online bookstore (offered in conjunction with Amazon.com). www.innsite.com

98 BEST TOURIST SIDE TRIPS

We gave **Roadside America** a 5-star rating last July, and it's easy to understand why: Where else can you find such a well-kept guide to the nation's most off-beat tourist attractions, such as the walk-through Bibles of Ohio or the dead-animal dioramas of Madison, Wisconsin. This is definitely something to take a look at before your next cross-country jaunt with your best friend. www.roadsideamerica.com

1. Publication Title Yahoo! Internet Life	2. Publication Number 1 0 8 4 0 0 7 0	3. Filing Date 10/1/98
4. Issue Frequency Monthly	5. Number of Issues Published Annually 12	6. Annual Subscription Price \$24.97
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4) One Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016		Contact Person Thomas Wallace Telephone (212) 503-6019
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) One Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016		

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)

Jim Spanfeller, One Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016
Editor (Name and complete mailing address)

Barry Golson, One Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)

John House, One Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
ZD Inc.	One Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016
Ziff-Davis Inc.	One Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box

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12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates) (Check one)
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PS Form 3526, September 1995

(See Instructions on Reverse)

13. Publication Title Yahoo! Internet Life		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below October 1998	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Not press run)		608,151	629,700
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation	(1) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, and Counter Sales (Not mailed)	61,808	63,000
	(2) Paid or Requested Mail Subscriptions (Include advertiser's proof copies and exchange copies)	341,798	372,960
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b(1) and 15b(2))		403,606	435,960
d. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, complimentary, and other free)		65,418	60,856
e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)			
f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e)		65,418	60,856
g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f)		469,024	496,816
h. Copies not Distributed	(1) Office Use, Leftovers, Spoiled	10,521	6,584
	(2) Returns from News Agents	128,606	126,300
i. Total (Sum of 15g, 15h(1), and 15h(2))		608,151	629,700
Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c / 15g x 100)		86.05%	87.75%

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership
☐ Publication required. Will be printed in the January 1999 issue of this publication
☐ Publication not required.

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
Charles Mast, Vice President, Circulation
Date
10/1/98

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- In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.
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PRETTY PS STRANGE

BY SCOTT ALEXANDER

Hans Brinker Budget Hotel

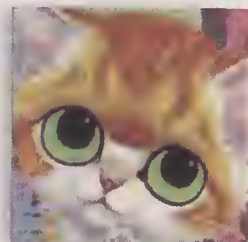
www.hans-brinker.com

It's *Pee-Wee's Playhouse* meets the Bates Motel. This site's navigation is something out of a Mensa puzzle, and its pages are populated with atmospheric sound effects and bizarre iconography. The hotel also provides profiles of past "guests," including Hoss Cartwright, the Lone Ranger, and Guest X, who "was found in the shower of Room 403 using a visitor's hair conditioner as an all-over elbow cleanser." The strangest part of all: The hotel is for real.

Big-Eyes

members.tripod.com/~besmirched/eyes.html

On the Net, it's not uncommon to run across personal pages whose proprietors make awkward, difficult, or painful confessions. But even we were creeped out by this one. The site's creator is "totally obsessed with big, poor, pitiful, weepy, sad eyes." Thus warned, enter the Big Eyes Gallery, which showcases the teariest, most ocularly endowed waifs the modern world has to offer, from bunnies and kitties to small children and elves. Diabetics, beware: There's enough sugar here to put you into a coma.

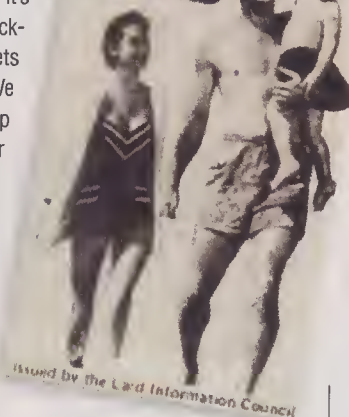


The Gallery of the Absurd

www.absurdgallery.com

At its best, advertising is wildly creative and dazzlingly effective. At its worst, it's crass or just downright laughable. Luckily, when it gets *that* bad, it actually gets good again, as this gallery attests. We marveled at the ad for "First Date" soap and drooled over the brochure for Ocean Spray's Cranberry World West (in Las Vegas), but we were touched by Pat Mayo of Hometown, Illinois, who in one ad brags that if you don't believe she has the best-smelling toilet in the neighborhood, you can take a whiff for yourself.

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Superbad

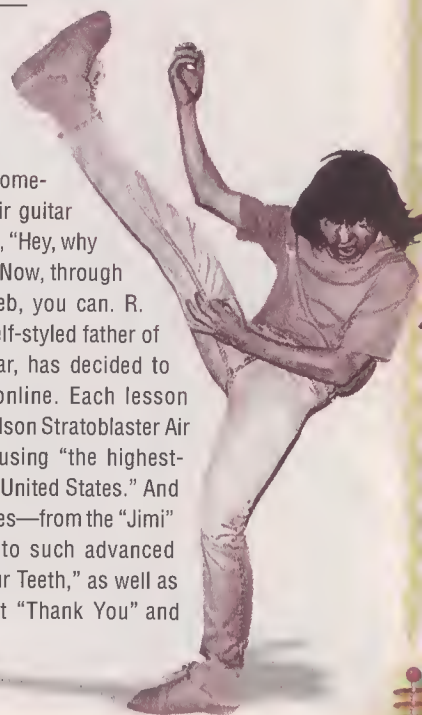
www.superbad.com

Last Thanksgiving, you learn, while Auntie Viv and Uncle Jay fought over the turkey neck again, the purple graveyard monster from a planet called ookky was having a laser battle with Captain America. Meanwhile, blobs of digital ectoplasm, ancient textbook diagrams, and photographs of convenience-store cigarette thieves are prancing across your screen. Does all of this make you feel lightheaded? It's just that you've stumbled into Superbad. If you're lucky, it might let you live.

Easy Air Guitar

mirrorimage.com/air

Surely you've seen someone playing the ol' air guitar at a party and thought, "Hey, why can't I be that cool?" Now, through the magic of the Web, you can. R. "Bud" Philson, the self-styled father of the modern air guitar, has decided to share his wisdom online. Each lesson comes with a free Philson Stratoblaster Air Guitar, handcrafted using "the highest-quality oxygen in the United States." And you'll learn all the poses—from the "Jimi" and the "Windmill" to such advanced moves as "Using Your Teeth," as well as the the all-important "Thank You" and "Good Night!"



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www.beercow.com

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1

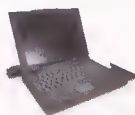
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Model Name	Millennia [®] C333	Millennia 350	Millennia 450	Millennia 450 MAX	Millennia 450 MAX
Processor	Intel [®] Celeron [™] processor 333MHz	Intel Pentium [®] II processor 350MHz	Intel Pentium II processor 450MHz	Intel Pentium II processor 450MHz	Intel Pentium II processor 450MHz
Cache	128KB internal L2 cache	512KB internal L2 cache	512KB internal L2 cache	512KB internal L2 cache	512KB internal L2 cache
RAM	32MB SDRAM	64MB 100MHz SDRAM	64MB 100MHz SDRAM	128MB 100MHz SDRAM	128MB 100MHz SDRAM
Hard Drive	4.3GB Ultra ATA hard drive*	8.4GB Ultra ATA hard drive*	8.4GB Ultra ATA hard drive*	13.6GB Ultra ATA hard drive*	14.4GB 7200 RPM Ultra ATA hard drive*
Monitor	15" Micron 700Vx monitor (13.9" display)	17" Micron 700Vx monitor (15.9" display)	17" Micron 700Vx monitor (15.9" display)	19" Micron 900Lx monitor (18" display)	19" Micron 900Lx monitor (18" display)
DVD/CD-ROM	32X max speed CD-ROM drive	32X max speed CD-ROM drive	32X max speed CD-ROM drive	6X DVD III ROM drive	6X DVD III ROM drive
Modem	3Com U.S. Robotics 56K WinModem**	3Com U.S. Robotics 56K WinModem**	3Com U.S. Robotics 56K WinModem**	3Com U.S. Robotics 56K WinModem**	3Com U.S. Robotics 56K WinModem**
Graphics	nVidia Riva 128, 4MB SGRAM 3D AGP graphics	nVidia Riva 128, 8MB SGRAM 3D AGP graphics	nVidia Riva 128, 8MB SGRAM 3D AGP graphics	16MB Diamond Viper 550 TriT 2X AGP graphics	16MB Diamond Viper 550 TriT 2X AGP graphics
Sound System	PCI 64-voice Wavetable sound	PCI 64-voice Wavetable sound	PCI 64-voice Wavetable sound	PCI 128-voice Wavetable sound	PCI 128-voice Wavetable sound
Warranty	5-year/3-year Micron Power [™] limited warranty	5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty	5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty	5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty	5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty
Additional Storage	3.5" floppy drive	3.5" floppy drive	3.5" floppy drive	3.5" floppy drive 100MB Jomega Zip drive	3.5" floppy drive 100MB Jomega Zip drive
Scholarship	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online
Price	\$1,199 \$42/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**	\$1,499 \$53/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**	\$1,699 \$59/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.** <i>New Low Price!</i>	\$2,499 \$87/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**	\$2,799 \$98/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.** <i>New Low Price!</i>

The #1 Ranked UltraPortable - CNET June '98
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Now Featuring
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Model Name	GoBook [™] 233	GoBook ² 266	TREK [™] 233	TREK ² 266	TREK ³ 300
Processor	Intel Pentium processor with MMX [™] technology 233MHz	Intel Pentium II processor 266MHz	Intel Pentium II processor 233MHz	Intel Pentium II processor 266MHz	Intel Pentium II processor 300MHz
Cache	512KB L2 pipeline burst cache	512KB L2 pipeline burst cache	512KB L2 pipeline burst cache	512KB L2 pipeline burst cache	512KB L2 pipeline burst cache
RAM	64MB EDO DRAM	32MB EDO DRAM	32MB EDO DRAM	64MB SDRAM	64MB SDRAM
Hard Drive	3.2GB hard disk drive*	3.2GB hard disk drive*	3.2GB hard disk drive (removable)*	3.2GB hard disk drive (removable)*	3.2GB hard disk drive (removable)*
Monitor	12.1" SVGA display	12.1" SVGA TFT display	12.1" SVGA TFT display	14.1" XGA TFT display	14.1" XGA TFT display
CD-ROM	24X CD-ROM drive	24X modular CD-ROM	24X CD-ROM drive (dedicated bay)	24X CD-ROM drive (dedicated bay)	DVD-ROM drive (dedicated bay)
Graphics	2MB/128-bit graphics accelerator	2MB/128-bit graphics accelerator	4MB AGP graphics accelerator	4MB AGP graphics accelerator	4MB AGP graphics accelerator
Sound System	16-bit stereo/Wavetable sound	16-bit stereo/Wavetable sound	Built-in stereo speakers & microphone	Built-in stereo speakers & microphone	Built-in stereo speakers & microphone
Warranty	5-year/1-year Micron limited warranty	5-year/1-year Micron limited warranty	5-year/1-year Micron limited warranty	5-year/1-year Micron limited warranty	5-year/1-year Micron limited warranty
Upgrades	Add SuperBase battery for \$299	Add SuperBase battery for \$299	Upgrade to 128MB SDRAM for \$199	Upgrade to 128MB SDRAM for \$199	Upgrade to 128MB SDRAM for \$199
Scholarship	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online
Price	\$1,799 \$63/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**	\$1,999 \$70/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**	\$1,799 \$63/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**	\$2,599 \$91/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**	\$2,899 \$101/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**



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